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DEADMAN PRIMED FOR ACTION ON THE "BRICK BATTLEGROUND!"
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THE MOTION PICTURE ™

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Leonard Nimoy as Mr. Spock
De Forest Kelley as Dr. "Bones" McCoy
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Persis Khambatta as Ilia
Stephen Collins as Commander Willard Decker

Paramount Pictures Presents A Robert Wise Film A Gene Roddenberry Production STAR TREK–THE MOTION PICTURE
Starring William Shatner Leonard Nimoy DeForest Kelley Also Starring Persis Khambatta Co-Starring James Doohan
George Takei Majel Barrett Walter Koenig Nichelle Nichols and Stephen Collins as Decker Screenplay by
Gene Roddenberry and Harold Livingston Produced by Gene Roddenberry Directed by Robert Wise
A Paramount Picture

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COMING THIS CHRISTMAS TO A THEATRE NEAR YOU.

Adventure Comics #465

DC Comics, Sept./Oct. 1979

Cavalcade of Superheroes is as Follows...

Flash: *Who is invading Central City?*
Story: Cary Bates, Art: Don Heck and Joe Giella

Deadman: *Brick Battleground!*
Story: Len Wein
Art: Jose Garcia Lopez and Dick Giordano

JSA: *Countdown to Disaster!*
Story: Paul Levitz, Art: Joe Staton and Dave Hunt

Aquaman: *Ice Pact*
Story: Bob Rozakis, Art: Don Newton and Dan Adkins

68 images, +nfo, +.sfv, +.par
150dpi, ~900 pixels wide

Naranja'scan 2003-03

Repost Freely

A BOLT OF LIGHTNING SHATTERED A CABINET OF CHEMICALS--CHANGING POLICE SCIENTIST BARRY ALLEN INTO THE FASTEST MAN ALIVE--
THE FLASH
WRITER - CARY BATES
ART - DON HECK
INKER - JOE GIELLA
LETTERER - BEN ODA
COLORIST - GENE D'ANGELO
EDITOR - ROSS ANDRU
BLUEBIRD TO BASE! MAYDAY! MAYDAY!
US AIR FORCE
RUN WITH THE FASTEST MAN ALIVE, READER! FOR YOU TOO WILL BE EMBARKING ON AN INCREDIBLE ADVENTURE THAT WILL PROPEL THE FLASH INTO THE MIDST OF A PERPLEXING MYSTERY! RUN ALONG WITH THE SCARLET SPEEDSTER AND SEE IF YOU CAN GUESS...
A JET-FIGHTER ON A CRASH-COURSE FOR CENTRAL CITY! AND THE ONLY THING BETWEEN THAT PILOT AND IMPENDING DISASTER IS THE FLASH!
"WHO IS INVADING CENTRAL CITY!"

ADVENTURE COMICS®, (USPS 007-880), Vol. 48, No. 465, Sept./Oct. 1979. Published bi-monthly by DC COMICS INC., 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10019. Second Class Postage paid at New York, N.Y. and Additional Mailing Offices. Copyright ©1979 by DC Comics Inc. All Rights Reserved. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. No actual persons, living or dead, are intended or should be inferred. Printed in U.S.A.

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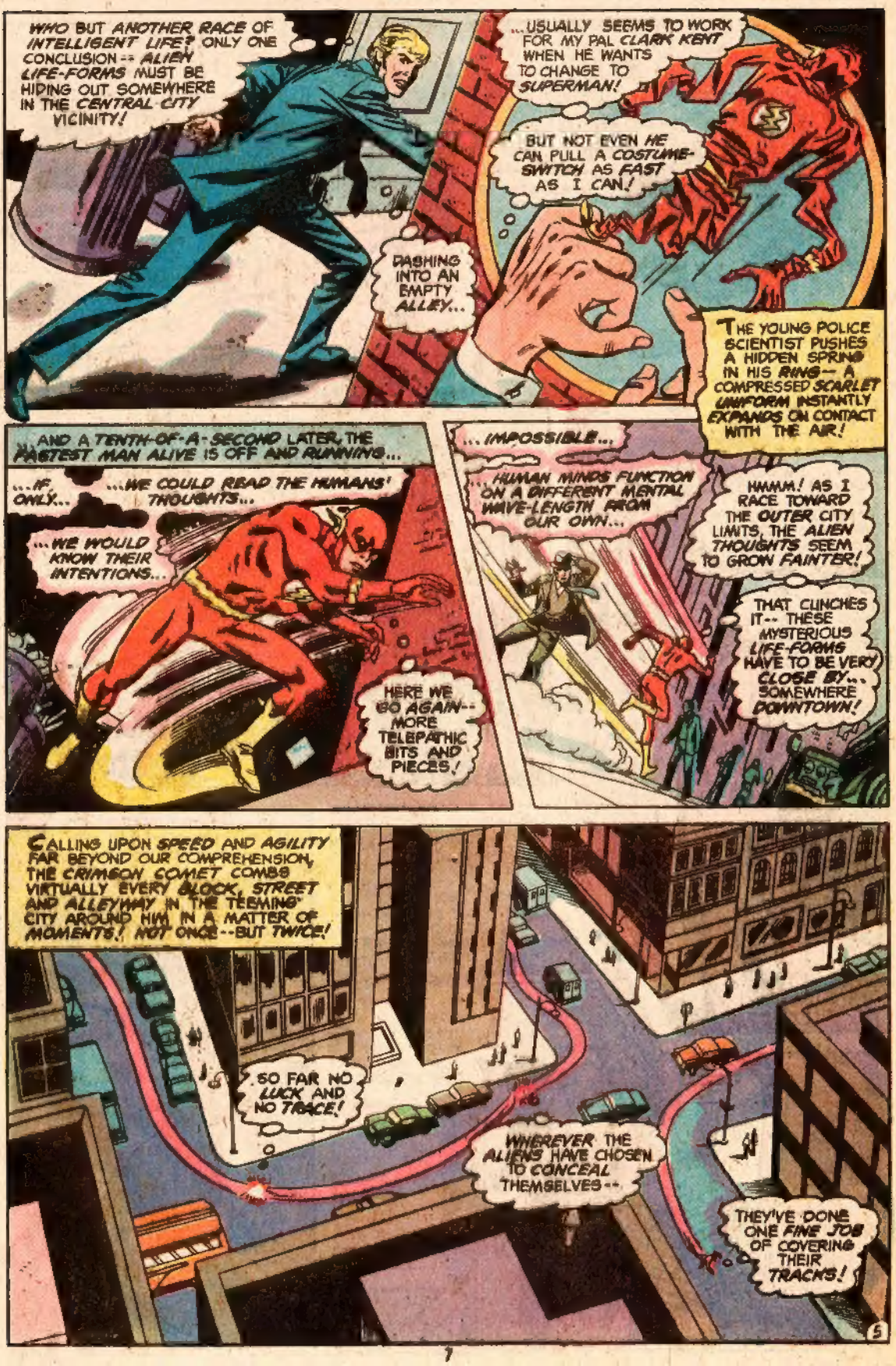
AND INSIDE THE COCKPIT OF THE SCREAMING AIRCRAFT...
WHEW! THANK THE STARS!
I FINALLY MANAGED TO UN-JAM MY MASTER CONTROL-STICK--
--AND JUST IN THE NICK OF TIME, TOO! I SHOULD BE ABLE TO MAKE IT BACK TO THE BASE NOW!
?!? LOOKS LIKE THE PILOT MANAGED TO REGAIN CONTROL WITHOUT MY HELP!
AND I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO HAVE TO REALLY EXERT MYSEL--
GOOD GOD! THAT DEAFENING SOUND--
KAAAAAA
--THE JET WAS FLYING FASTER THAN THE SPEED OF SOUND--
--AND IT'S LEFT BEHIND A MASSIVE SONIC BOOM!
BOOOOM
AT SUCH A LOW ALTITUDE-- A BOOM OF THAT MAGNITUDE COULD CAUSE MILLIONS OF DOLLARS OF DAMAGE TO CENTRAL CITY!
OOOOOOMMMMMMM
2

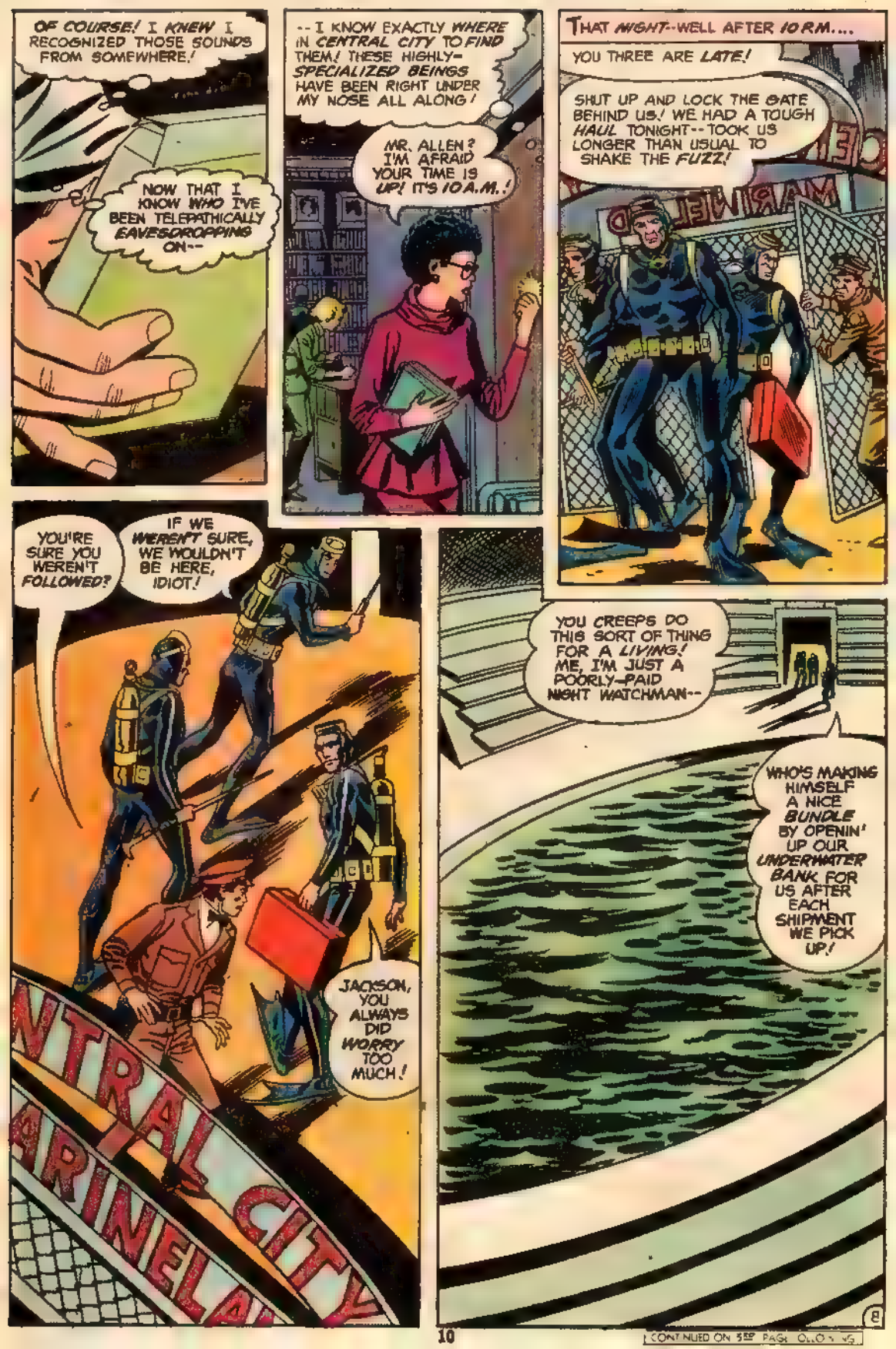
BUT NOT IF THE FLASH CAN OUT-BOOM IT FIRST--BEFORE IT REACHES THE CITY LIMITS!
KABOOO

MY EARS ARE STILL RINGING LIKE CRAZY... AND DO I HAVE A WHOPPING HEADACHE!
I THINK I MAY HAVE REALLY HURT MYSELF!
SEVERAL HOURS LATER...
...THOSE BLASTED JET PLANES! YOU'RE NOT THE FIRST PATIENT WHO'S COME IN HERE WITH SONIC BOOM COMPLAINTS, BARRY!
BUT YOU'LL BE RELIEVED TO KNOW BOTH EARDRUMS SEEM TO CHECK OUT OKAY!!
THAT IS A RELIEF! AT LEAST THE RINGING HAS STOPPED... I JUST WISH I COULD SAY THE SAME ABOUT THIS PERSISTENT HEADACHE!
PROBABLY JUST STRAIN AND AGGRAVATION, MY BOY! I'LL WRITE YOU A PRESCRIPTION THAT OUGHT TO HELP!
DRUGS
IT'S LUCKY I DON'T GET MORE HEADACHES, BOOM OR NO BOOM... CONSIDERING THE WAY MY LIFE HAS BEEN GOING LATELY...*
I'D BETTER GET BACK TO THE LAB! LUNCH-HOUR'S OVER!
*READERS OF FLASH IN HIS OWN MAGAZINE KNOW WHEREOF HE SPEAKS! --A.A.
MAYBE IF I PLUNGE MYSELF IN LAB WORK--
...INVADERS...
...ENCROACHING UPON OUR DOMAIN...
...DANGER... DANGER...
WHAT THE BLAZES--?
...WHAT IS IT THEY WANT...
...DO THEY MEAN US HARM...
...HUMANS...
...SO UNPREDICTABLE...
...UNTRUSTWORTHY...
I'M PICKING UP SNATCHES OF TELEPATHIC CONVERSATIONS!
BUT FROM WHERE... AND WHO-- WHO WOULD CLASSIFY "HUMANS" AS INVADERS?
4


WHO BUT ANOTHER RACE OF INTELLIGENT LIFE? ONLY ONE CONCLUSION -- ALIEN LIFE-FORMS MUST BE HIDING OUT SOMEWHERE IN THE CENTRAL CITY VICINITY!
...USUALLY SEEMS TO WORK FOR MY PAL CLARK KENT WHEN HE WANTS TO CHANGE TO SUPERMAN!
BUT NOT EVEN HE CAN PULL A COSTUME-SWITCH AS FAST AS I CAN!
DASHING INTO AN EMPTY ALLEY...
THE YOUNG POLICE SCIENTIST PUSHES A HIDDEN SPRING IN HIS RING -- A COMPRESSED SCARLET UNIFORM INSTANTLY EXPANDS ON CONTACT WITH THE AIR!
...AND A TENTH-OF-A-SECOND LATER, THE FASTEST MAN ALIVE IS OFF AND RUNNING...
...IF ONLY...
...WE COULD READ THE HUMANS' THOUGHTS...
...WE WOULD KNOW THEIR INTENTIONS...
HERE WE GO AGAIN -- MORE TELEPATHIC BITS AND PIECES!
...IMPOSSIBLE...
...HUMAN MINDS FUNCTION ON A DIFFERENT MENTAL WAVE-LENGTH FROM OUR OWN...
HMMM! AS I RACE TOWARD THE OUTER CITY LIMITS, THE ALIEN THOUGHTS SEEM TO GROW FAINTER!
THAT CLINCHES IT -- THESE MYSTERIOUS LIFE-FORMS HAVE TO BE VERY CLOSE BY... SOMEWHERE DOWNTOWN!
CALLING UPON SPEED AND AGILITY FAR BEYOND OUR COMPREHENSION, THE CRIMSON COMET COMBS VIRTUALLY EVERY BLOCK, STREET AND ALLEYWAY IN THE TEEMING CITY AROUND HIM IN A MATTER OF MOMENTS! NOT ONCE -- BUT TWICE!
SO FAR NO LUCK AND NO TRACE!
WHEREVER THE ALIENS HAVE CHOSEN TO CONCEAL THEMSELVES --
THEY'VE DONE ONE FINE JOB OF COVERING THEIR TRACKS!
5

THE NEXT MORNING--AFTER A MUCH-NEEDED RESTFUL AND PEACEFUL NIGHT'S SLEEP...
-YAWN- I DON'T BELIEVE IT! NOT ONLY DID THE TELEPATHIC CHATTER SLACK UP ENOUGH LAST NIGHT FOR ME TO FALL ASLEEP...
I WAKE UP AND FIND OUT MY NAGGING HEADACHE IS ALL GONE!
BUT JUST AS BARRY IS ABOUT TO STEP OUT OF BED...
-KLIKK-
--FAAA-
-FAAA-
--WHRRR--
GOOD GRIEF! STILL MORE TELEPATHIC EAVESDROPPING POUNDING INSIDE MY HEAD! ONLY THIS TIME, INSTEAD OF COHERENT THOUGHT FRAGMENTS--
-FAAA-
-GRARRR--
KLIKK-
--ALL I'M PICKING UP ARE MENTAL IMPRESSIONS OF ODD, MEANINGLESS SOUNDS! NOW I'M REALLY CONFUSED!
AND YET...IN THE BACK OF MY MIND THERE SEEMS TO BE SOMETHING STRANGELY FAMILIAR ABOUT THESE SOUNDS...
CENTRAL LIBRARY
HERE YOU GO, MR. ALLEN--THIS IS THE LAST OF THEM!
BUT I'M AFRAID I CAN ONLY LET YOU USE THE LISTENING ROOM UNTIL 10:00. IT'S ALREADY BEEN SIGNED OUT FOR THE REST OF THE DAY!
THANK YOU, MISS! YOU'VE BEEN VERY HELPFUL!
I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU SIGNED OUT OUR ENTIRE STOCK OF SOUND EFFECTS TAPES!
YOU COULDN'T POSSIBLY LISTEN TO MORE THAN ONE OR TWO BEFORE 10:00!
LET'S JUST SAY I'M A FAST LISTENER! SEE YOU IN 33 MINUTES!
WHAT A STRANGE MAN YOU ARE!
6

AND AFTER THE YOUNG SCIENTIST HAS SECURELY SHUT THE DOOR BEHIND HIM.
IF ANYBODY ELSE TURNS THE VOLUME UP AND RUNS A TAPE ON FAST FORWARD--
--ALL THEY WOULD HEAR IS A SPEEDED-UP JUMBLE OF INDECIPHERABLE SOUNDS...
...BUT THANKS TO SUPER-SPEED-GEARED EARS...
WHRRR
BLIKK
RSSSS
GRRRR
...EVEN AT THIS FAST SETTING I CAN EASILY DISTINGUISH EACH AND EVERY SOUND!
ORNN
EMMM
HUKK
LET'S SEE... WE JUST WENT THROUGH A TRAIN WHISTLE, A COYOTE HOWL, A TORNADO AND A THUNDER-CLAP!
BUUUU
HIS HANDS RELENTLESSLY MOVING MULTIPLE BLURS, BARRY SPEED-LISTENS TO TAPE AFTER TAPE AFTER TAPE...
I'VE POURED HUNDREDS OF DIFFERENT SOUND EFFECTS INTO MY EARS ALREADY... BUT NONE OF THEM IS EVEN CLOSE TO THE "TELEPATHIC NOISES" THAT WENT THROUGH MY HEAD!
MAYBE I'M JUST WASTING MY TIME HERE...
AND THEN-- SEVERAL SECONDS AND SEVERAL DOZEN SOUNDS LATER...
GOOD GRIEF! I JUST HIT THE JACKPOT!
THOSE ARE THE MYSTERY NOISES! I STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY ARE--
-FAAA
KLIKK
-FAAA
WHRRR
--BUT I WILL... AS SOON AS I CONSULT THE NUMBERED LISTINGS ON THE BACK OF THE TAPE BOX!
STOP
7


OF COURSE! I KNEW I RECOGNIZED THOSE SOUNDS FROM SOMEWHERE!
NOW THAT I KNOW WHO I'VE BEEN TELEPATHICALLY EAVESDROPPING ON--
--I KNOW EXACTLY WHERE IN CENTRAL CITY TO FIND THEM! THESE HIGHLY-SPECIALIZED BEINGS HAVE BEEN RIGHT UNDER MY NOSE ALL ALONG!
MR. ALLEN? I'M AFRAID YOUR TIME IS UP! IT'S 10 A.M.!
THAT NIGHT--WELL AFTER 10 P.M....
YOU THREE ARE LATE!
SHUT UP AND LOCK THE GATE BEHIND US! WE HAD A TOUGH HAUL TONIGHT--TOOK US LONGER THAN USUAL TO SHAKE THE FUZZ!
YOU'RE SURE YOU WEREN'T FOLLOWED?
IF WE WEREN'T SURE, WE WOULDN'T BE HERE, IDIOT!
JACKSON, YOU ALWAYS DID WORRY TOO MUCH!
NTRAL CITY
YOU CREEPS DO THIS SORT OF THING FOR A LIVING! ME, I'M JUST A POORLY-PAID NIGHT WATCHMAN--
WHO'S MAKING HIMSELF A NICE BUNDLE BY OPENIN' UP OUR UNDERWATER BANK FOR US AFTER EACH SHIPMENT WE PICK UP!
8

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE OF V5

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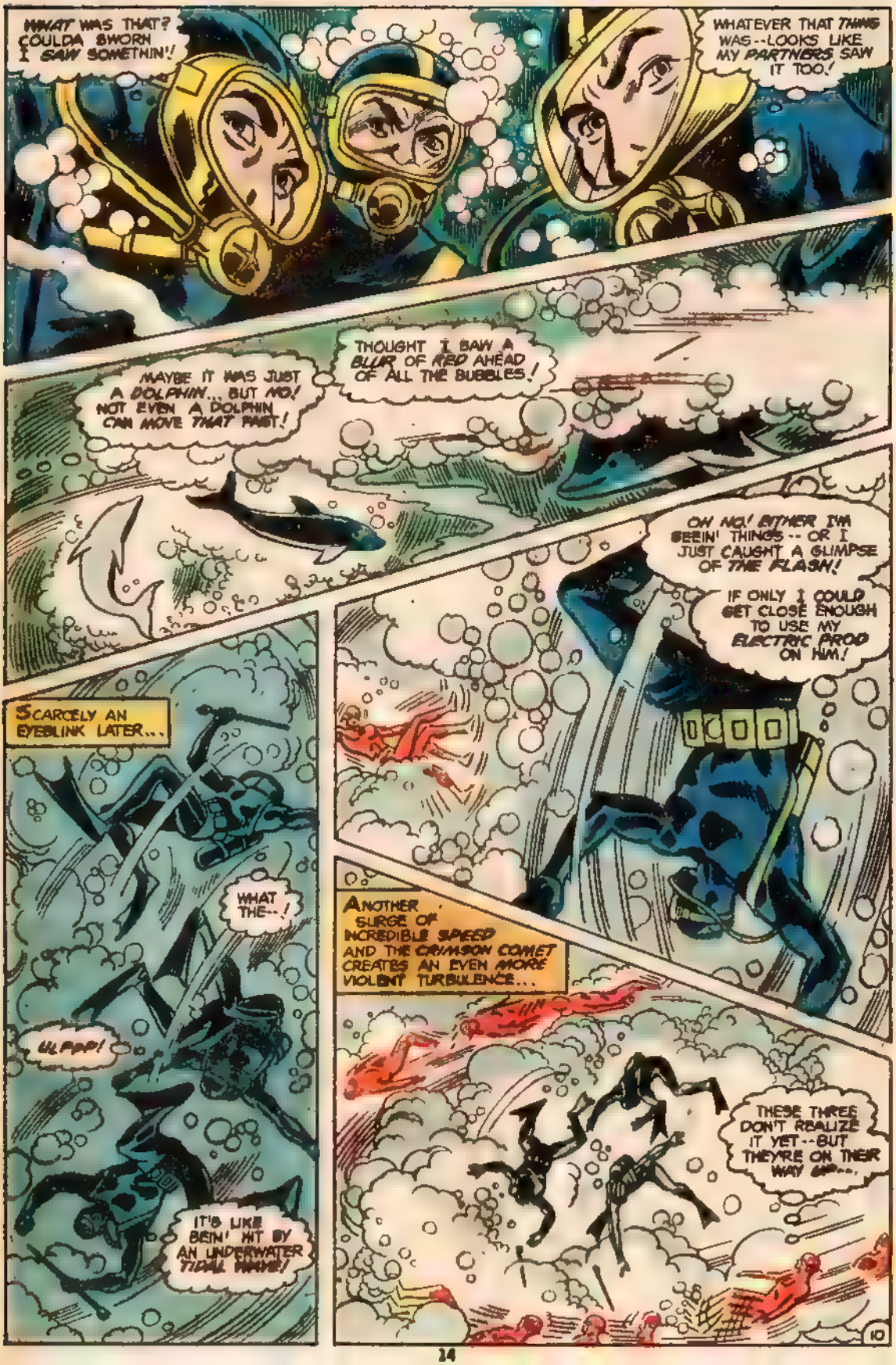
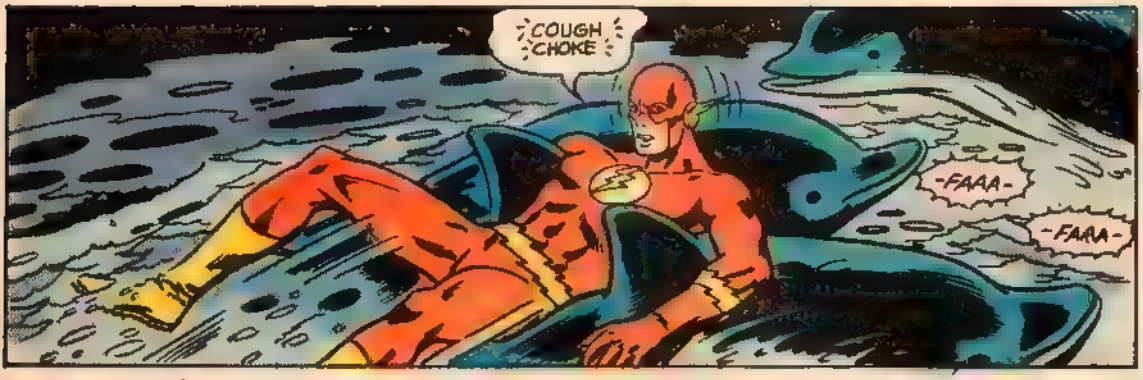
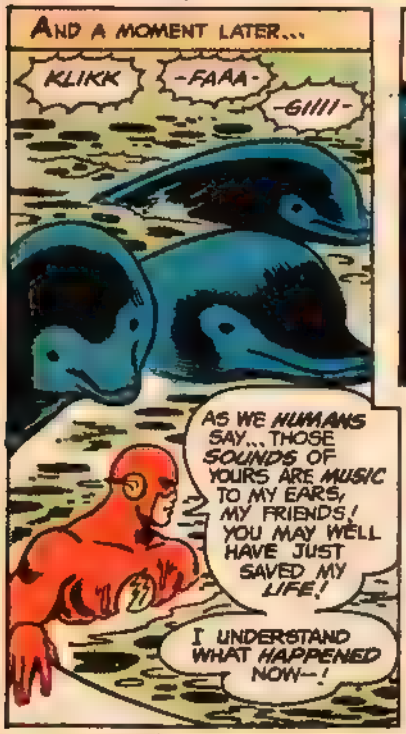
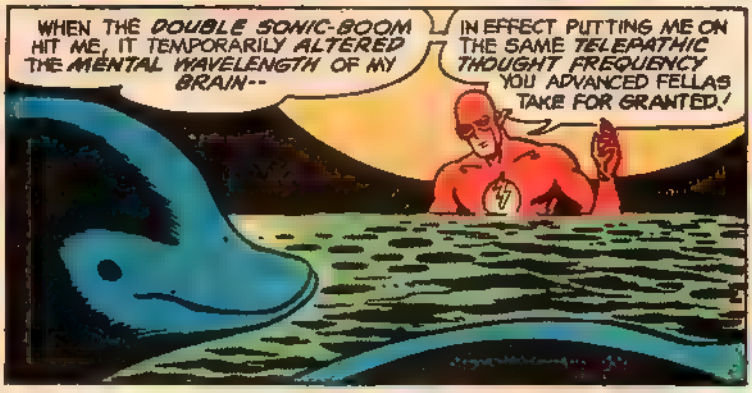
I STILL DON'T KNOW WHY YOU INSIST ON TAKING THOSE ELECTRIC PRODS ALONG! I TELL YOU BOYS EVERY TIME--
--THE DOLPHINS ARE HARMLESS!
YEAH, WELL... MAYBE WE GOT INFERIORITY COMPLEXES UNDERWATER!
BUT NO SOONER HAS THE LAST FROGMAN SLIPPED BENEATH THE SURFACE..
UHHH...
NITE-NITE, JACKSON!
WHILE UNDERWATER...
-FAAA-
-FAAA-
-CAAAA-
-KLIKK-
I DON'T CARE WHAT JACKSON SAYS--I DON'T TRUST THOSE DOLPHINS! IT MAY SEEM CRAZY.. BUT I ALWAYS GET THE FEELING THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT ME!
ANOTHER NIGHT, ANOTHER COOL HALF-MILLION TO ADD TO OUR STASH!
WHO'D EVER THINK OF LOOKIN' FOR 20 MILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF COCAINE HERE IN THE BOTTOM OF A DOLPHIN POOL-- TIED UP IN WATERPROOF BAGS?
YES, SIR...WON'T BE LONG NOW BEFORE THE THREE OF US CAN RETIRE AND LIVE OUT OUR LIVES LIKE KINGS!
9

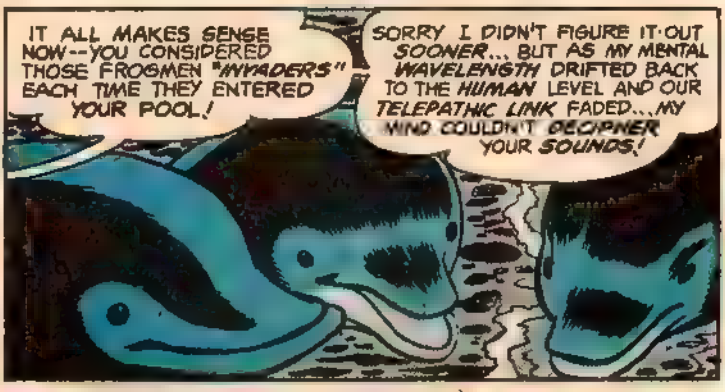

WHAT WAS THAT? COULDA SWORN I SAW SOMETHIN'!
WHATEVER THAT THING WAS--LOOKS LIKE MY PARTNERS SAW IT TOO!
THOUGHT I SAW A BLUR OF RED AHEAD OF ALL THE BUBBLES!
MAYBE IT WAS JUST A DOLPHIN... BUT NO! NOT EVEN A DOLPHIN CAN MOVE THAT FAST!
OH NO! EITHER I'M SEEIN' THINGS -- OR I JUST CAUGHT A GLIMPSE OF THE FLASH!
IF ONLY I COULD GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO USE MY ELECTRIC PROD ON HIM!
SCARCELY AN EYEBLINK LATER...
WHAT THE--!
ULP-PP!
IT'S LIKE BEIN' HIT BY AN UNDERWATER TIDAL WAVE!
ANOTHER SURGE OF INCREDIBLE SPEED AND THE CRIMSON COMET CREATES AN EVEN MORE VIOLENT TURBULENCE...
THESE THREE DON'T REALIZE IT YET--BUT THEY'RE ON THEIR WAY UP...
10

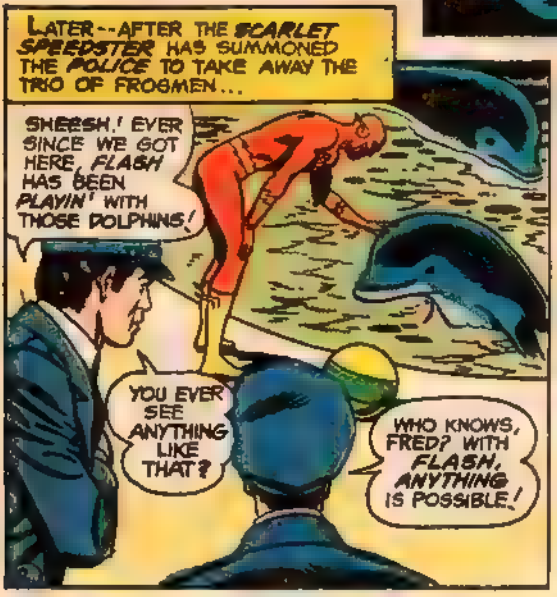
--AS THEY GO SPOUTING OFF... FLASH-STYLE!
BUT WHATEVER GOES UP MUST COME DOWN! THAT GOES FOR WATER!..
..AND DRUG PUSHERS AS WELL!
UHHHH!
OFFFF!
ENHHH!
BUT JUST AS THE FASTEST MAN ALIVE IS ABOUT TO RETRIEVE THE STOLEN COCAINE...
UHHH... THAT ELECTRIC PROD WAS ACTIVATED... DIDN'T SEE IT IN TIME!
EVERYTHING GETTING HAZY... BUT I MUST STAY CONSCIOUS... I MUST...
-FAAA-
--FAAA-
-YLLLJ--
-DRRR-
-KLLKK-
-EEEER-

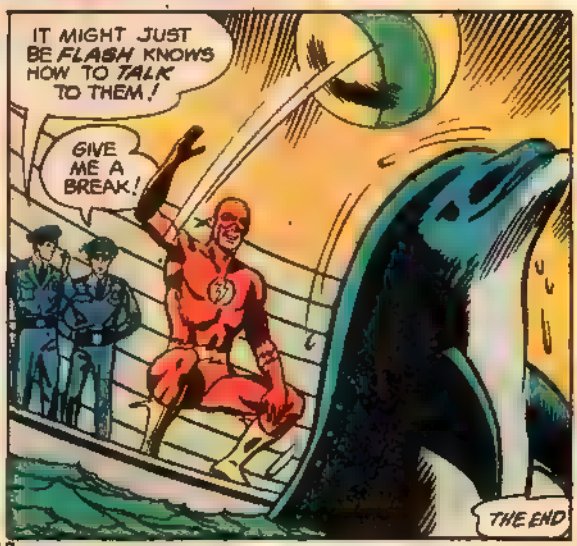

COUGH CHOKE
-FAAA-
-FAAA-


AND A MOMENT LATER...
KLIKK
-FAAA-
-GIIII-
AS WE HUMANS SAY... THOSE SOUNDS OF YOURS ARE MUSIC TO MY EARS, MY FRIENDS! YOU MAY WELL HAVE JUST SAVED MY LIFE!
I UNDERSTAND WHAT HAPPENED NOW--!


WHEN THE DOUBLE SONIC-BOOM HIT ME, IT TEMPORARILY ALTERED THE MENTAL WAVELENGTH OF MY BRAIN--
IN EFFECT PUTTING ME ON THE SAME TELEPATHIC THOUGHT FREQUENCY YOU ADVANCED FELLAS TAKE FOR GRANTED!


IT ALL MAKES SENSE NOW--YOU CONSIDERED THOSE FROGMEN "INVADERS" EACH TIME THEY ENTERED YOUR POOL!
SORRY I DIDN'T FIGURE IT OUT SOONER... BUT AS MY MENTAL WAVELENGTH DRIFTED BACK TO THE HUMAN LEVEL AND OUR TELEPATHIC LINK FADED... MY MIND COULDN'T DECIPHER YOUR SOUNDS!


LATER--AFTER THE SCARLET SPEEDSTER HAS SUMMONED THE POLICE TO TAKE AWAY THE TRIO OF FROGMEN...
SHEESH! EVER SINCE WE GOT HERE, FLASH HAS BEEN PLAYIN' WITH THOSE DOLPHINS!
YOU EVER SEE ANYTHING LIKE THAT?
WHO KNOWS, FRED? WITH FLASH, ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE!


IT MIGHT JUST BE FLASH KNOWS HOW TO TALK TO THEM!
GIVE ME A BREAK!
THE END

MURDERED BEFORE HIS RIGHTFUL TIME GRANTED THE BIZARRE ABILITY TO POSSESS LIVING BODIES THE SPIRIT OF CIRCUS AERIALIST BOSTON BRAND LIVES ON, TO STRIKE A BALANCE BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL AS..
DEADMAN
BRICK BATTLE-GROUND!
THE CITY, THEY SAY, IS DYING -- A VICTIM OF A PLUNGING ECONOMY, SOARING INFLATION -- AND WORST OF ALL, INDIFFERENCE!
BUT WALK THESE GRIMY STREETS, AND YOU CAN STILL FEEL THE PULSE OF THE PEOPLE -- STILL SMELL THEIR COOKING -- STILL STEP TO THE ROCKING RHYTHM OF THEIR MUSIC! SURE THE CITY MAY BE BATTERED -- BUT IT'S A LONG, LONG WAY FROM DYING!
IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE US, JUST ASK A MAN WHO KNOWS DEATH... PERSONALLY!
AN ADVENTURE INTO GUERRILLA WARFARE WITH...
LEN WEIN WRITER
JOSE LUIS GARCIA LOPEZ & DICK GIORDANO ARTISTS
GLYNIS WEIN COLORIST
BEN ODA LETTERER
ROSS ANDRU EDITOR

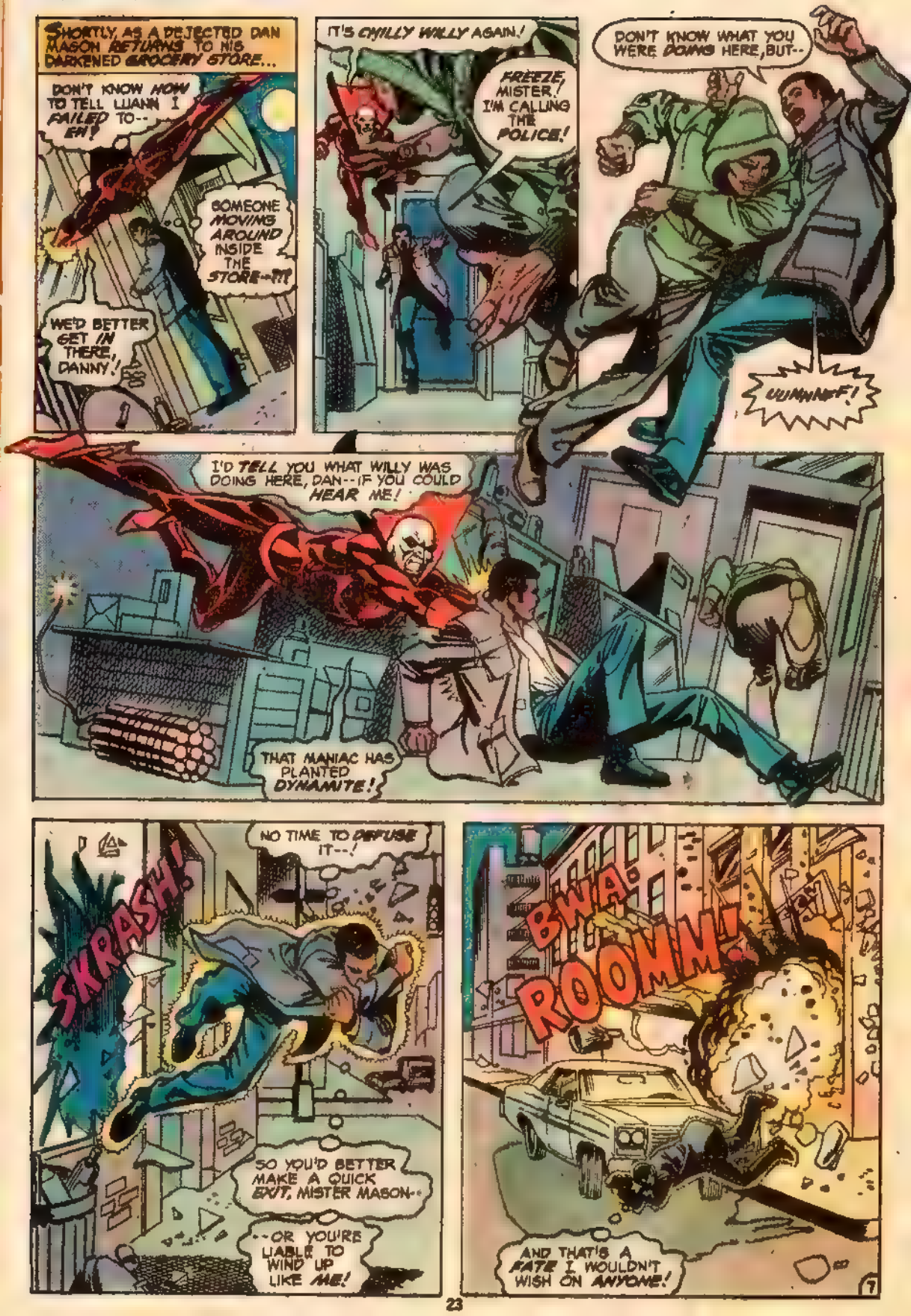
LISTEN TO 'EM DOWN THERE -- COMPLAINING ABOUT THE RAW DEAL LIFE HAS HANDED 'EM!
I'D GLADLY TRADE PLACES WITH ANY ONE OF 'EM!
AT LEAST THEY'RE ALIVE, WHICH IS MORE THAN I CAN --
KRASH!
HUH--?!?
EASY TO TELL WHERE THAT CRASH CAME FROM!
ALL I HAVE TO DO IS FOLLOW THE TRAIL OF GAWKERS!
BETTER SEE WHAT'S GOING ON INSIDE!
WHY? WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS TO US?
HE BEEN WARNED WHAT KIN HAPPEN TO A DUDE WHAT'S TOO SMART FUH HIS OWN GOOD!
JES TEACHIN' YO' MAN THE FACKS O'LIFE, LI'L MAMA!
GROCERY
SEE, LI'L MAMA?
NONE O' THIS WOULD HAPPEN IF'N OL' DANNY-BOY WOULD JES' BUY HISSELF ENUFF INSURANCE!
SKRANG!
PLEASE-- DON'T!
LUANN--! NO! DON'T BEG THESE PUNKS!
NOTHING CAN MAKE ME PAY THEIR FILTHY PROTECTION MONEY!
SO THAT'S IT, HUH? ONE OF THE OLDEST SCAMS IN THE BOOK!
2

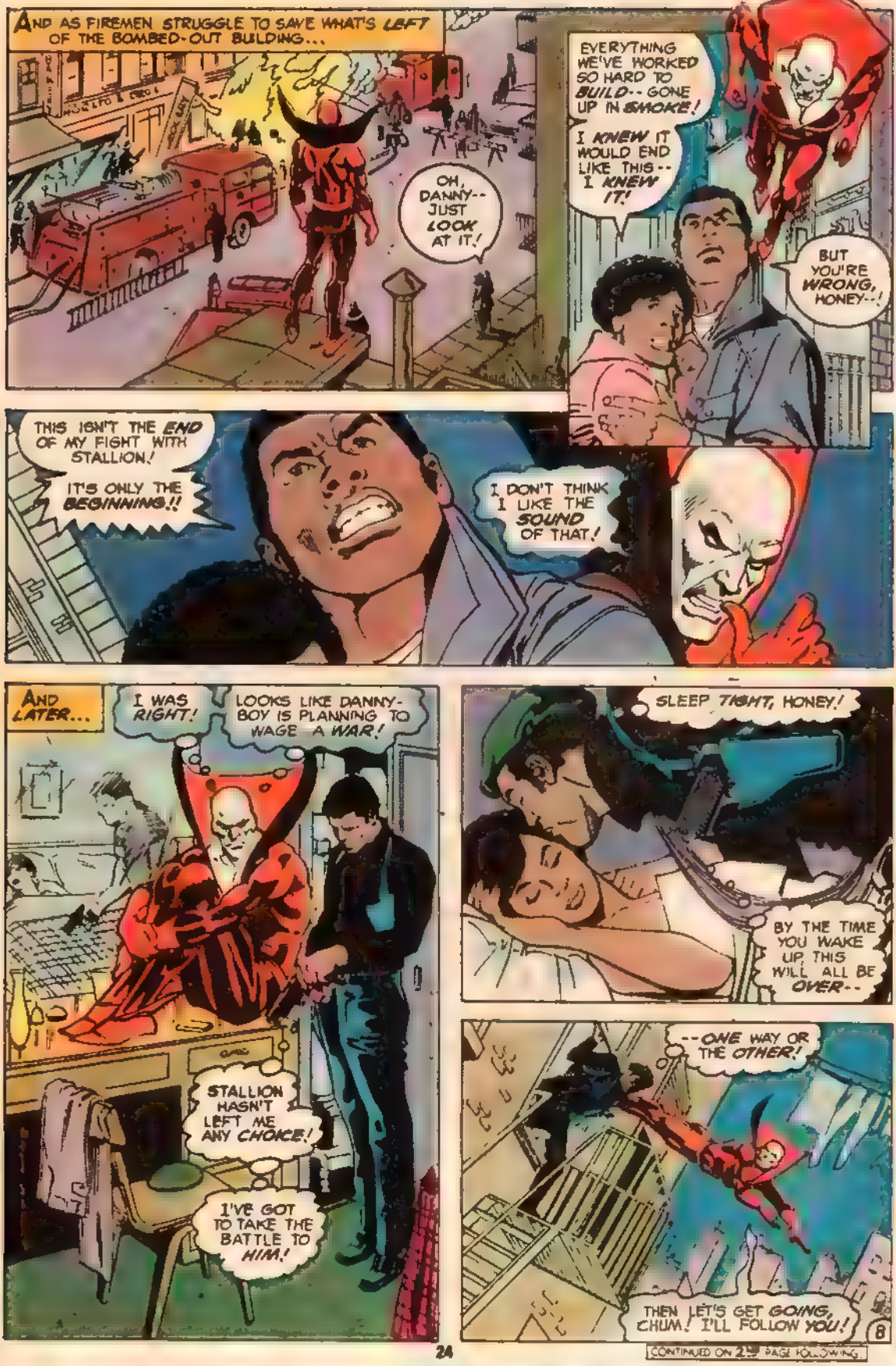
WELL, THESE PUNKS DON'T KNOW IT YET--
--BUT THEY'VE JUST B.TTEN OFF MORE THAN THEY CAN CHEW!
I'M WARNING YOU, LEROY-- LEAVE MY WIFE AND ME ALONE!
OR YOU'LL DO WHAT, BRO'?
YO! AIN'T 'ZACKLY NO THREAT WIT' CHILLY WILLY HOLDIN' BOTH YO' ARMS!
WELL, IF THAT'S THE ONLY PROBLEM--!
BROKE HIS GRIP--!?!
AND IN JUST A SECOND, BROTHER LEROY--
--I'M GOING TO BREAK YOU!!
CHRISTMAS! IT AIN'T POSSIBLE--!
AIN'T NOBODY KIN TAKE OUT CHILLY WILLY!
ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE, RUBE - WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM YOUR FRIENDS!
EASY NOW, MISTER MASON!
DON'T GO DOIN' SUMTHIN' WE BOTH GONNA REGRET!
THAT'S RIGHT, LEROY-- BACK OFF!
AND KEEP BACKING OFF-- RIGHT OUT THROUGH THE DOOR!

IF I EVER CATCH EITHER OF YOU CREEPS IN HERE AGAIN--
--I SWEAR I'LL BREAK YOU IN HALF!
YOU HEARD THE MAN, RUBES BEAT IT!
OKAY, BRO'-- WE GOIN'!
BUT WE BE BACK-- AN' WE WON'T BE ALONE!
AND NEITHER WILL HE, PUNK!
OH, DANNY-- LOOK AT THIS PLACE!
WHY DON'T YOU JUST PAY THEM?
BECAUSE ONCE YOU START, YOU NEVER STOP!
AND I REFUSE TO KNUCKLE UNDER TO THEM!
LEROY AND HIS FRIEND ARE SCUM, LUANN -- THEY'RE ANIMALS!
AND HONEST MEN SHOULDN'T HAVE TO LIVE IN FEAR OF THEM!
THAT'S THE SPIRIT, DANNY-BOY!
THEN WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO, DARLING?
I'VE CALLED A MEETING OF ALL THE NEIGHBORHOOD MERCHANTS FOR TONIGHT!
IF WE CAN ONLY STICK TOGETHER, WE CAN PUT AN END TO ALL THE LEROYS IN THIS TOWN!
AND IF YOU DON'T MIND, FRIEND-- I'M GONNA DO WHAT I CAN TO HELP!
4

LATER, IN A DIMLY-LIT STOREROOM...
YOU'RE LATE, EDDIE--BUT I'M GLAD YOU MADE IT!
I ALMOST DIDN'T COME AT ALL, MASON--I'M FRIGHTENED.
YOU AIN'T ALONE IN THAT, EDDIE.
#25
AIN'T NONE OF US WHO'D BE HERE IF MASON HADN'T FORCED US!
I'M NOT SOME SORT OF VILLAIN, ALBERT--I'M ONLY DOING THIS FOR OUR MUTUAL GOOD!
WE HAVE TO DECIDE ON A PLAN OF ACTION!
THAT'S EASY FOR YOU TO SAY, SON.!
YOU WERE A BIG VIET NAM WAR HERO!
BUT THE REST OF US ARE MERCHANTS, NOT FIGHTERS-- WE GOT A LOT TO LOSE!
AND I GUARANTEE YOU'LL LOSE ALL OF IT--
--UNLESS WE STICK TOGETHER!
IT'S NO ACT, DAN--
THEY CAN ONLY THREATEN US SO LONG AS WE ACT LIKE WE'RE AFRAID OF THEM.!
--WE ARE AFRAID OF THEM.!
AND WISELY SO, FRIEND!
EH?
5

WHO IN BLAZES IS HE?
LORD--NO! IT'S STALLION!
THANKS FOR THE INFO!
I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU FOUND US HERE, STALLION--BUT IT WON'T DO YOU ANY GOOD!
WHEN THIS MEETING IS OVER, YOU'LL BE FINISHED AROUND HERE!
WELL, IF ANYONE CAN PULL THESE GOOD PEOPLE TOGETHER --IT'S YOU, BROTHER MASON.
EVERYONE KNOWS WHAT A BRAVE MAN YOU ARE!
BUT ALBERT HAS A WIFE AND THREE KIDS... AND CARL HAS A SISTER... AND ROBERTS HAS AN INVALID MOTHER... AND EDDIE HAS A SON!
I WONDER HOW BRAVE THEY'LL BE WHEN PUSH COMES TO SHOVE!
BLAST--! THAT ABOUT SINKS IT!
SORRY, MASON--BUT WE HAVE FAMILIES TO THINK ABOUT!
THEN GO ON--RUN!
I'LL DEAL WITH STALLION MYSELF!
YOU DO THAT, MASON!
WHENEVER YOU'RE READY-- I'LL BE WAITING!
STALLION KNEW EXACTLY HOW TO HIT THE OTHERS WHERE THEY WERE MOST VULNERABLE!
LOOKS LIKE I'M GOING TO HAVE TO STAND UP TO HIM ALONE!
WRONG, DAN! YOU'RE NOT ALONE--
--NOT SO LONG AS YOU'VE GOT A DEADMAN ON YOUR TEAM!


SHORTLY, AS A DEJECTED DAN MASON RETURNS TO HIS DARKENED GROCERY STORE...
DON'T KNOW HOW TO TELL LUANN I FAILED TO-- EH?
SOMEONE MOVING AROUND INSIDE THE STORE--?!?
WE'D BETTER GET IN THERE, DANNY!
IT'S CHILLY WILLY AGAIN!
FREEZE, MISTER, I'M CALLING THE POLICE!
DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU WERE DOING HERE, BUT--
UUHNNF!
I'D TELL YOU WHAT WILLY WAS DOING HERE, DAN--IF YOU COULD HEAR ME!
THAT MANIAC HAS PLANTED DYNAMITE!
NO TIME TO DEFUSE IT--!
SKRASH!
SO YOU'D BETTER MAKE A QUICK EXIT, MISTER MASON--
--OR YOU'RE LIABLE TO WIND UP LIKE ME!
BWA-ROOMM!
AND THAT'S A FATE I WOULDN'T WISH ON ANYONE!
7


AND AS FIREMEN STRUGGLE TO SAVE WHAT'S LEFT OF THE BOMBED-OUT BUILDING...
OH, DANNY-- JUST LOOK AT IT!
EVERYTHING WE'VE WORKED SO HARD TO BUILD-- GONE UP IN SMOKE!
I KNEW IT WOULD END LIKE THIS-- I KNEW IT!
BUT YOU'RE WRONG, HONEY--!
THIS ISN'T THE END OF MY FIGHT WITH STALLION!
IT'S ONLY THE BEGINNING!!
I DON'T THINK I LIKE THE SOUND OF THAT!
AND LATER...
I WAS RIGHT!
LOOKS LIKE DANNY-BOY IS PLANNING TO WAGE A WAR!
STALLION HASN'T LEFT ME ANY CHOICE!
I'VE GOT TO TAKE THE BATTLE TO HIM!
SLEEP TIGHT, HONEY!
BY THE TIME YOU WAKE UP, THIS WILL ALL BE OVER--
--ONE WAY OR THE OTHER!
THEN LET'S GET GOING, CHUM! I'LL FOLLOW YOU!
8

CONTINUED ON 25 PAGE FOLLOWING

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THJS...
GOTTA GIVE DAN CREDIT FOR GUTS!
THAT'S ONE HELL OF A CLIMB FOR A GUY WHO'S STILL LIVING!
I'M IN LUCK! STALLION'S APARTMENT IS DARK!
HE'S OVERCONFIDENT-- DOESN'T EVEN BOTHER LOCKING HIS WINDOWS!
THAT'S GOING TO COST HIM-- EVERYTHING!
STALLION HAS HIS RECORDS HIDDEN HERE SOMEPLACE--
-AND I'VE GOT A GOOD IDEA WHERE TO START LOOKING!
JACKPOT-- ON THE FIRST GUESS!
THE OLD SAFE-BEHIND-THE-PAINTING GAG!
I WOULD'VE THOUGHT STALLION HAD MORE IMAGINATION!
NOW I HAVE TO OPEN IT!
BUT FINDING THE SAFE WAS THE EASY PART!
IF THAT'S YOUR ONLY PROBLEM, DAN--LET ME GIVE YOU A HELPING HAND!
LET'S SEE... THAT'S 15 RIGHT ... 64 LEFT...
HEY-- WAS THAT A TUMBLER CLICKING?
SONUVAGUN -- I DID IT!
WE DID IT, CHUM--
--BUT YOU CAN SAVE THE APPLAUSE FOR LATER!
STALLION'S RECORDS! WITH THIS EVIDENCE, I CAN PUT HIM BEHIND BARS.-- WHERE HE BELONGS!
THAT'S ASSUMING, OF COURSE, YOU MANAGE TO LIVE THAT LONG!
9

STALLION!!
-- AND LUANN?!?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH MY WIFE, MISTER?
DANNY, I'M SORRY! I WOKE UP... FOUND YOU GONE... AND KNEW YOU WERE HEADED HERE!
I CAME AFTER YOU... TO TALK YOU OUT OF THIS INSANITY...
BUT FORTUNATELY-- FOR ME, THAT IS--
--BROTHER LEROY BUMPED INTO YOUR LITTLE LADY BEFORE SHE BUMPED INTO YOU!
I'M AFRAID YOU'VE PUT US IN AN UPSETTING SITUATION, BROTHER MASON!
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO WITH YOU NOW?
WELL, WHATEVER IT IS-- IT WON'T BE PLEASANT!
IT'S TIME FOR ME TO CALL IN THE REINFORCEMENTS!
CAN'T WASTE TIME--
--OR STALLION MAY WASTE LUANN AND DANNY!
EXCUSE ME, PAL--BUT I HAVE TO BORROW YOUR BODY FOR A MINUTE!
UH..
HELLO-- POLICE? THIS IS A CONCERNED CITIZEN CALLING!
I WANT TO REPORT A MURDER IN PROGRESS!

AND MOMENTS LATER...
LEROY... WILLY... KINDLY TAKE THE MASONS OUT SOMEWHERE AND DISPOSE OF THEM!
AND PLEASE BE QUICK ABOUT IT! WE HAVE WORK TO DO!
GOT BACK HERE JUST IN TIME!
ONLY ONE THING LEFT FOR ME TO DO!
GOOD-BYE, BROTHER--
--UN.
LEROY-- WAIT! I'VE CHANGED MY MIND!
JUST TAKE THEM DOWN TO THE STREET-- AND RELEASE THEM!
WHA'CHU TALKIN' 'BOUT, MIST' STALLION?
WE SET 'EM LOOSE-- AN' THEY GO STRAIGHT TO THE COPS!
DON'T ARGUE WITH ME, LEROY!
I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING!
THEN THAT MAKES TWO OF US, STALLION!
RUN FOR IT, LUANN-- NOW!!
POW!
MASON-- WAIT!!
DON'T FORGET THESE!
THE LEDGERS!!?
STALLION, YOU'VE JUST HANDED ME THE NAILS TO YOUR COFFIN!
11

C'MON, CHILLY WILLY--AFTER 'EM!
WE GOTTA GET THEM BOOKS BACK!
NO WAY, LEROY--YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE!
YOU AND WILLY ARE STAYING HERE--TO TAKE THE RAP FOR ME!
WHY, YOU DOUBLE-CROSSIN'--!
OKAY--THAT'S ENOUGH!
WH-WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
IF I TOLD YOU, RUBE--YOU'D NEVER BELIEVE ME!
WE RAN INTO A FELLA NAMED MASON OUT IN THE HALL--AND HE WAS CARRYING SOME REAL INTERESTING BOOKS!
YOU'RE ALL UNDER ARREST--FOR EXTORTION, AMONG OTHER THINGS!
THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING! IT'S A MISTAKE!
ALL A TERRIBLE MISTAKE!
POLICE
POLICE
THERE, LUANN--NOW IT'S FINALLY ENDED!
WRONG, DAN--THIS ISN'T THE END!
IT'S A BRAND-NEW BEGINNING!
YEAH, IT'S A MISTAKE ALL RIGHT, MISTER--
--BUT YOU'RE THE ONE WHO MADE IT!
12

NEXT ISSUE: THE MOST HAUNTING DEADMAN THRILLER OF ALL! BE HERE FOR... **"NEVER SAY DIE!"**

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EARTH TWO -- A WORLD MUCH LIKE OUR OWN, YET SLIGHTLY *DIFFERENT*. THERE YOUNG AND OLD HEROES HAVE *JOINED FORCES* TO BATTLE EVIL AS THE --

JUSTICE SOCIETY

IT WAS *NOON* WHEN THE THEFT WAS DISCOVERED: A CAPSULE OF DEADLY POISON, WHICH WOULD AUTOMATICALLY BE RELEASED INTO THE AIR AT FIVE O'CLOCK, HAD BEEN STOLEN.

GOTHAM HOSPITAL

NO ONE KNEW HOW -- OR WHY, AND ONLY THE JUSTICE SOCIETY COULD HOPE TO OUTRACE A ...

COUNTDOWN to DISASTER!

SIXTY SQUARE MILES OF CITY TO SEARCH FOR A ONE-INCH CAPSULE!

NO MATTER HOW FAST I GO, IT'S STILL AN IMPOSSIBLE JOB! WE DON'T HAVE A CHANCE!

WHOOSH

MY *POWER RING* CAN'T DETECT THE CAPSULE ANY-WHERE!

EITHER IT'S VANISHED -- OR IT'S TOO SMALL TO TRACE!

FLY SWIFTLY, MY FRIENDS, AND MAY YOUR EYES BE SHARP AS AN *EAGLE'S*!

FOR IF THAT CAPSULE OPENS, THERE IS NO CLOUD HIGH ENOUGH TO GIVE US SAFETY!

Featuring: THE ORIGINAL FLASH ★ GREEN LANTERN ★ AND HAWKMAN ★ ALONG WITH POWER GIRL ★ THE HUNTRESS ★ *and* DOCTOR FATE

PAUL LEVITZ, *WRITER* ★ JOE STATON *and* DAVE HUNT, *ARTISTS*
MILT SNAPINN, *LETTERER* ★ ADRIENNE ROY, *COLORIST* ★ ROSS ANDRU, *EDITOR*

2:30 P.M.--AND GOTHAM CITY GOES ABOUT ITS BUSINESS IN ITS USUAL HURRIED, HAPHAZARD FASHION...
NOT REALIZING THAT DEATH LIES WAITING WITHIN ITS EMBRACE...
IF THAT CAPSULE POPS OPEN, THOUSANDS WILL DIE IN SECONDS!
EVEN I CAN'T POSSIBLY EVACUATE THE CITY FAST ENOUGH!
WHICH MEANS THE CAPSULE MUST BE FOUND--
WHOOSH
--BUT HOW?
PRESIDENTCARTERTODAY WHILEIRANJERRYBROWNMADE BLACKMAILERSANNOUNCEDIN GOTHAMSTOCKMARKETMOVED
HUH--? WAIT A SECOND--
IF I JUST HEARD WHAT I THOUGHT I HEARD, WE'VE GOT OUR BREAK!
THAT ANNOUNCER SAID SOMETHING ABOUT BLACKMAILERS IN GOTHAM CITY!
BEEP
AND I'LL BET MY FELLOW JSA MEMBERS KNOW MORE ABOUT THIS!
AS INDEED THEY DO. AND SOON, THAT KNOWLEDGE IS BEING SHARED!
..DELIVER THE THREE MILLION BY FOUR O'CLOCK AND YOU GET YOUR CAPSULE BACK--BLOW IT, AND GOTHAM GETS WASTED!
THAT'S THE TAPE, FLASH!
OR A REASONABLE REPLICA, ANYWAY--THANKS TO MY POWER RING.
CHIEF O'HARA WAVED ME DOWN TO PASS ALONG THE BLACKMAILERS' DEMANDS--AND TELL ME THE CITY'S GIVING IN.
OF COURSE--THEY HAVE TO!
BUT WE DON'T--RIGHT?
RIGHT.
2

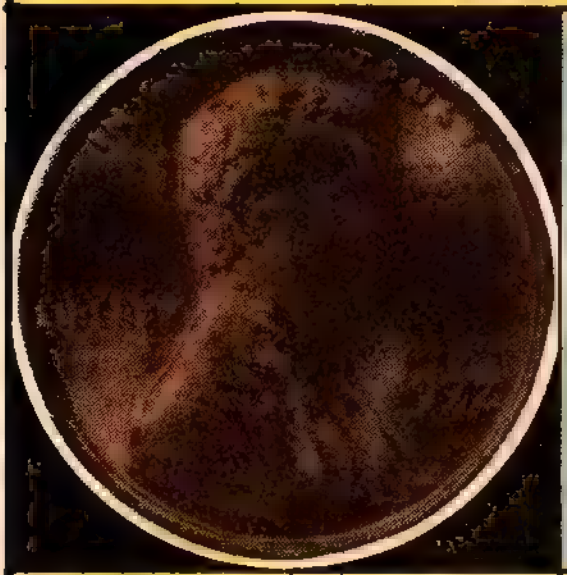
WE COULD TRY TO TRACK THE BLACKMAILERS USING DETECTIVE WORK--THE WAY THE GIRLS ARE TRYING TO GET A LEAD ON THE CAPSULE FROM THE HOSPITAL WHERE IT WAS STOLEN.
BUT I HAVE A BETTER IDEA!
LEAD THE WAY, FLASH.
WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO DEBATE THE QUESTION--GO!
WHOOSH
THANKS--I'VE WANTED TO TRY THIS FOR A WHILE, BUT I'VE NEVER HAD THE CHANCE!
I'M GOING TO TRY MATCHING THE VIBRATIONS OF THE BACKGROUND NOISE ON THE TAPE--WE CAN USE THAT AS A TRAIL TO FOLLOW!
3:00 P.M.--AND GOTHAM PAUSES, GATHERING ITS ENERGIES FOR THE RUSH HOUR TO COME.
BUT IF THE CITY'S SIXTEEN MILLION WORKERS KNEW WHAT WAS ABOUT TO HAPPEN, THE RUSH HOUR WOULD BEGIN NOW!
KRASH
WELL, WHAT DO YOU KNOW, FLASH--YOU WERE RIGHT!
SOMETIMES IT'S NOT BEING FAST THAT MATTERS, G.L.--
--IT'S KNOWING HOW TO USE YOUR SPEED!
BLAM
BLAM
HOW TRUE!

TAKE THE BULLETS THESE THUGS ARE FIRING: THEY'RE FAST--
--BUT SINCE THEY WERE NOT AIMED AT A FLYING MAN, THEY'RE USELESS!
WHAM
UH-HUH. IN FACT, I CAN'T REMEMBER WHEN WE LAST TACKLED A BUNCH OF CROOKS SO UNPREPARED FOR US.
IT'S LIKE A PICNIC AFTER OUR LAST FEW CASES!
HOLD IT, FELLA-- NOBODY GAVE YOU PERMISSION TO LEAVE!
UNGGGH...
BENJAM
BRING HIM IN HERE, FLASH!
I'LL TOSS HIM IN THE POWER-BEAMED CAGE I'M CREATING!
AND NOW, GENTLEMEN, IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO COME CLEAN.
OF THE POISON, THAT IS.
FWOOSH
PLENTY OF KEYS AND JUNK, G L.-- BUT NO CAPSULE.
HEY--DON'T USE THAT CRAZY RING ON ME, LANTERN-- PLEASE! I-I DON'T WANNA BE CREAMED!
I DON'T KNOW-- I SWEAR! WE NEVER HAD IT!
I GOT A BUDDY AT THE HOSPITAL WHO HEARD ABOUT THE THEFT-- WE THOUGHT WE COULD CASH IN--
THEN TALK-- WHERE'S THE POISON?
4
UNHH...
THREE TO ONE HE'S TELLING THE TRUTH.
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HIS LIFE, PROBABLY-- BUT I AGREE.
WHUMP
ONLY WHERE DOES THAT LEAVE US?

REWARD!!

We'll pay you $50.00 for this 1972 penny!

It's slightly different from most 1972 pennies, yet there are many like it in circulation right now! Do you know what the difference is?



Our brand new, 1980 Coin Guidebook shows you how much America's best coin dealer guarantees to pay for hundreds of valuable coins.

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Gold Coins	1932	$88,000.00
Silver Dollars	1935	$75,000.00
Quarters	1955	$ 5,000.00
Half Dollars	1901	$ 1,200.00
Pennies	1961	$10,000.00
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Did you spend this coin today? Think of the many other valuable coins that might slip through your fingers in your change each day. Some coins will bring you over $1,000.00. Mr. D. J. of Vancouver, Wash. recently found a penny like the one shown in the picture above.

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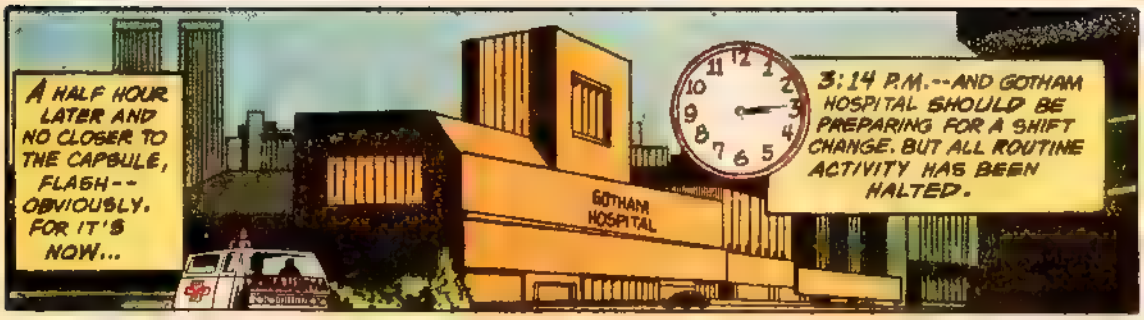

A HALF HOUR LATER AND NO CLOSER TO THE CAPSULE, FLASH--OBVIOUSLY. FOR IT'S NOW...
GOTHAM HOSPITAL
3:14 P.M.--AND GOTHAM HOSPITAL SHOULD BE PREPARING FOR A SHIFT CHANGE. BUT ALL ROUTINE ACTIVITY HAS BEEN HALTED.

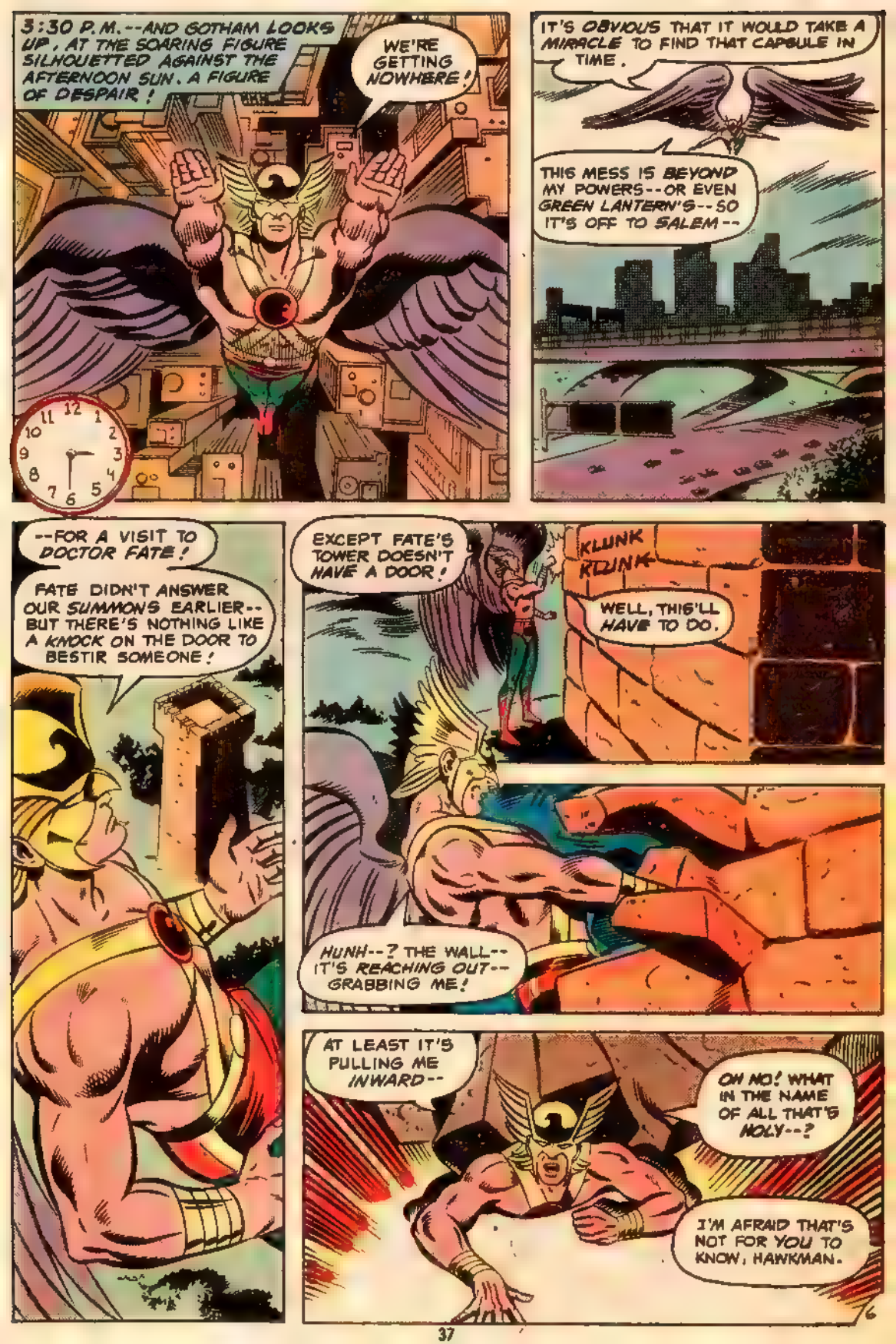
INSTEAD, THE WHOLE HOSPITAL COMPLEX IS AT A STANDSTILL--HOLDING ITS COLLECTIVE BREATH, AND WAITING FOR WORD FROM THE TWO SLEUTHS WITHIN...
LOONY--THAT'S WHAT THIS IS, HUNTRESS!
I'VE DUSTED MORE CABINETS TODAY THAN ROCKEFELLER'S MAID DOES IN A YEAR!
SHE'S NOT LOOKING FOR FINGERPRINTS, POWER GIRL--WE ARE!
RESTRICTED

YOUR PROBLEM IS NO ONE EVER TAUGHT YOU PATIENCE!
SOMETIMES, CROOKS AREN'T OBLIGING ENOUGH TO WEAR SIGNS SAYING "HI--ARREST ME!"
SOMETIMES YOU HAVE TO GET YOUR HANDS DIRTY TO FIND THE REAL CRIMINALS!

BUT WE'VE BEEN AT THIS FOR HOURS ALREADY.
THERE'S ALWAYS A CLUE, POWER GIRL, EVEN IF IT TAKES DAYS TO FIND IT.
DO ME A FAVOR? CHECK THE PRINTS ON THIS.

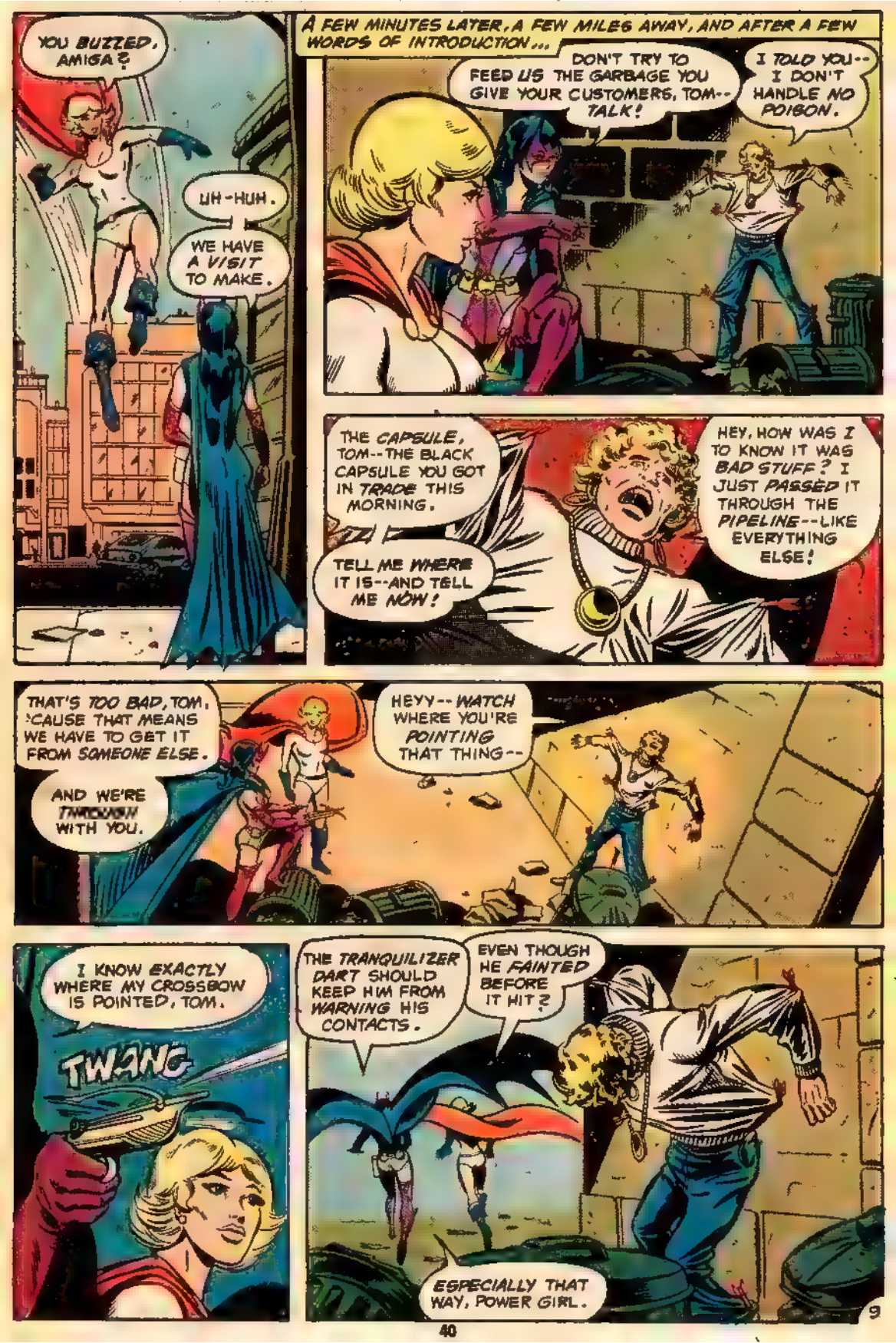
AGAINST WHAT?
THE INSIDE LATCH OF THE CABINET WHERE THE POISON WAS KEPT.
IT MATCHES! BUT THE POLICE SAID ONLY HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES' PRINTS WERE ON THE CABINET.

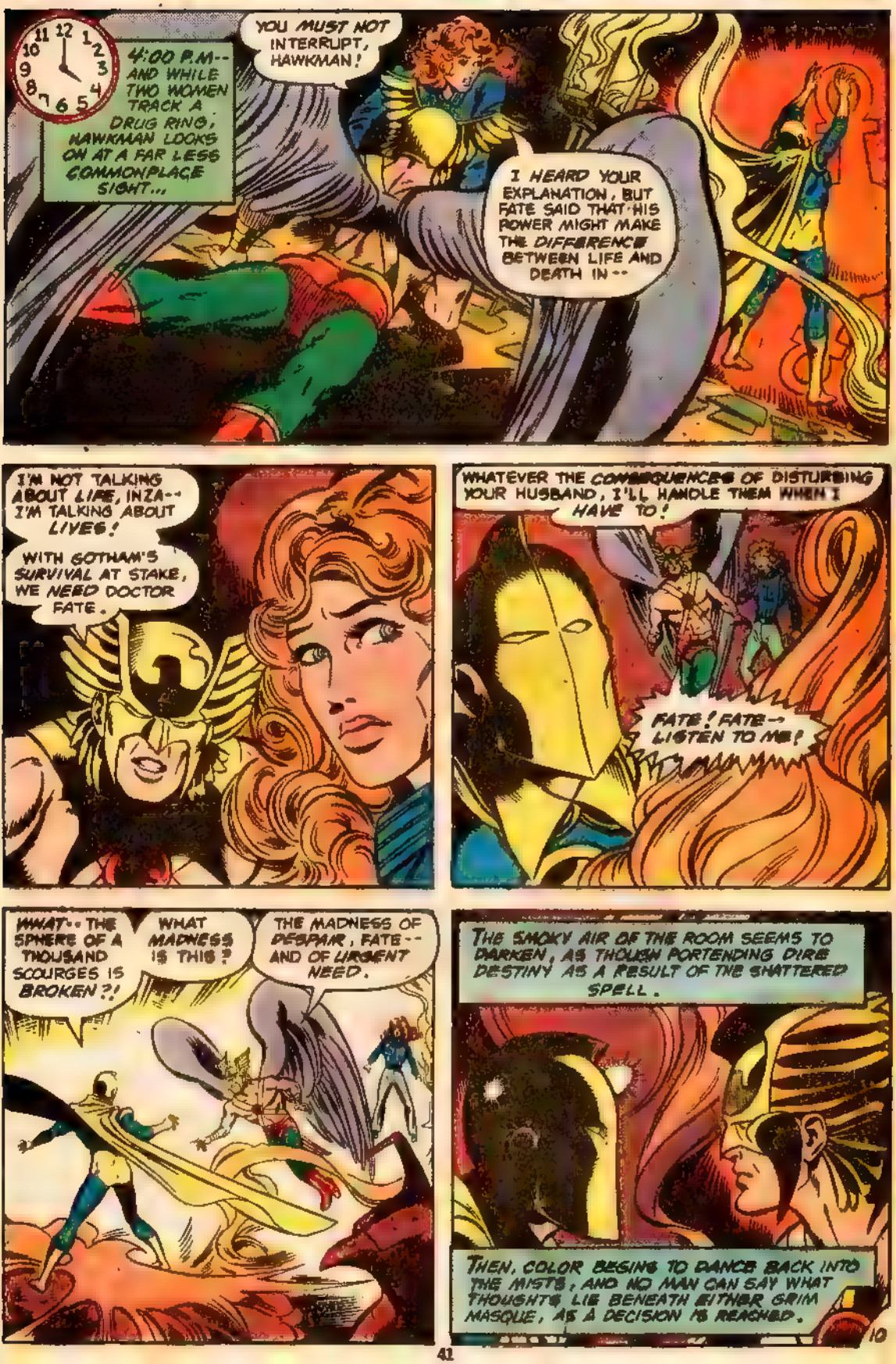
TRUE. THESE ARE PRINTS FROM THE EMPLOYEE FILE.
BUT TELL ME THIS: HOW DID THE FINGERPRINTS OF A WOMAN ASSIGNED TO CLEAN THE OUTSIDE OF THE CABINET GET ON THE INSIDE LATCH?
S


3:30 P.M.--AND GOTHAM LOOKS UP, AT THE SOARING FIGURE SILHOUETTED AGAINST THE AFTERNOON SUN. A FIGURE OF DESPAIR!
WE'RE GETTING NOWHERE!
IT'S OBVIOUS THAT IT WOULD TAKE A MIRACLE TO FIND THAT CAPSULE IN TIME.
THIS MESS IS BEYOND MY POWERS--OR EVEN GREEN LANTERN'S--SO IT'S OFF TO SALEM--
--FOR A VISIT TO DOCTOR FATE!
FATE DIDN'T ANSWER OUR SUMMONS EARLIER--BUT THERE'S NOTHING LIKE A KNOCK ON THE DOOR TO BESTIR SOMEONE!
EXCEPT FATE'S TOWER DOESN'T HAVE A DOOR!
KLUNK KLUNK
WELL, THIS'LL HAVE TO DO.
HUNH--? THE WALL--IT'S REACHING OUT--GRABBING ME!
AT LEAST IT'S PULLING ME INWARD--
OH NO! WHAT IN THE NAME OF ALL THAT'S HOLY--?
I'M AFRAID THAT'S NOT FOR YOU TO KNOW, HAWKMAN.

3:45 P.M.--AND GOTHAM OFFICE-WORKERS STARE OUT THEIR WINDOWS ONCE AGAIN, AS TWO WOMEN FLASH BY, IN A RACE AGAINST TIME.
SORRY ABOUT THE SUDDEN LEAP, BUT IT'S HARD TO MANEUVER UP HERE--
--I HAVE TO TAKE THE BOUNCES WHEN I CAN.
NO SWEAT, POWER GIRL--IT'S NOT THE JUMP THAT KNOCKED THE WIND OUT OF ME, ANYWAY.
REMEMBER, SUPERMAN STARTED TAKING ME FOR PIGGY-BACK RIDES BEFORE I COULD WALK!
I DON'T GET IT, THEN--WHY?
OH, I WAS THINKING OF THE CLEANING WOMAN WE'RE HERE TO SEE--
--AND REALIZING WHAT SOME PEOPLE WILL DO TO GET MONEY!
PERHAPS SOMEWHERE THERE IS A HARDENED CRIMINAL WHOSE BREATH DOESN'T CATCH AT THE SIGHT OF A MASKED NEMESIS APPROACHING.
BUT THOSE WHO DRIFT INTO CRIME HAVE NO SUCH PROTECTIVE REFLEXES. FOR THEM, THE ARRIVAL OF A SUPER-HERO MEANS DISCOVERY--AND NO MORE PURPOSE IN HIDING.
YOU STOLE THE POISON CAPSULE FOR YOUR SON?
I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
WERE YOU TRYING TO KILL HIM?
NO! I WAS TRYIN' TO KEEP MICHAEL ALIVE!
I DIDN'T CARE WHAT IT WAS--POISON WAS GOOD AS ANYTHIN'--HE JUST HADDA HAVE SOMETHIN' TO TRADE!
THE BOY'S AN ADDICT--I FOUND HIS WORKS IN HIS ROOM.
HE MUST BE TRADING THE PUSHER'S HOSPITAL DRUGS FOR HIS FIXES!
OH--THEN SHE WAS TRYING TO KEEP HIM ALIVE.
7

I SUPPOSE--BUT IT'S NO FAVOR. IF HE'S ALREADY STEALING TO SUPPORT HIS HABIT, HE'S PROBABLY NOT LONG FOR THE WORLD ANYWAY.
BUT ISN'T THERE SOMETHING WE COULD DO?
IF YOU EVER FIGURE OUT WHAT, LET ME KNOW.
3:30 P.M.--AND GOTHAM'S COMMISSIONER OF CIVIL DEFENSE TAKES HIS FIRST SERIOUS LOOK AT EVACUATING THE CITY. HE TURNS OFF THE LIGHT IN HIS OFFICE, AND CRIES. HE KNOWS IT CAN'T BE DONE.
MEANWHILE, TWO LITHE FORMS MOVE SWIFTLY ACROSS THE CITY--REFUSING TO ACCEPT THE IMPOSSIBILITY OF THEIR TASK.
ONE PUSHER OUT OF HUNDREDS MUST BE FOUND--BEFORE HE CAN PASS ON A VERY SPECIAL BRAND OF POISON.
ONLY ONE PUSHER WITH THE RIGHT STYLE--WHO CALLS HIMSELF TRADER TOM, DOWN IN THE WEST VILLAGE.
BEEP
I'D BETTER SIGNAL POWER GIRL--AND THEN WE CAN NAB HIM!
AND NO CLUE GOES UNTOUCHED THAT MIGHT BRING THEM CLOSER TO THEIR GOAL.
GOTHAM POLICE DEPT NARCOTICS (RESTRICTED)
8


YOU BUZZED, AMIGA?
UH-HUH.
WE HAVE A VISIT TO MAKE.
A FEW MINUTES LATER, A FEW MILES AWAY, AND AFTER A FEW WORDS OF INTRODUCTION...
DON'T TRY TO FEED US THE GARBAGE YOU GIVE YOUR CUSTOMERS, TOM--TALK!
I TOLD YOU--I DON'T HANDLE NO POISON.
THE CAPSULE, TOM--THE BLACK CAPSULE YOU GOT IN TRADE THIS MORNING.
TELL ME WHERE IT IS--AND TELL ME NOW!
HEY, HOW WAS I TO KNOW IT WAS BAD STUFF? I JUST PASSED IT THROUGH THE PIPELINE--LIKE EVERYTHING ELSE!
THAT'S TOO BAD, TOM, 'CAUSE THAT MEANS WE HAVE TO GET IT FROM SOMEONE ELSE.
AND WE'RE THROUGH WITH YOU.
HEYY--WATCH WHERE YOU'RE POINTING THAT THING--
I KNOW EXACTLY WHERE MY CROSSBOW IS POINTED, TOM.
TWANG
THE TRANQUILIZER DART SHOULD KEEP HIM FROM WARNING HIS CONTACTS.
EVEN THOUGH HE FAINTED BEFORE IT HIT?
ESPECIALLY THAT WAY, POWER GIRL.
9


4:00 P.M.-- AND WHILE TWO WOMEN TRACK A DRUG RING, HAWKMAN LOOKS ON AT A FAR LESS COMMONPLACE SIGHT...
YOU MUST NOT INTERRUPT, HAWKMAN!
I HEARD YOUR EXPLANATION, BUT FATE SAID THAT HIS POWER MIGHT MAKE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH IN --
I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT LIFE, INZA-- I'M TALKING ABOUT LIVES!
WITH GOTHAM'S SURVIVAL AT STAKE, WE NEED DOCTOR FATE.
WHATEVER THE CONSEQUENCES OF DISTURBING YOUR HUSBAND, I'LL HANDLE THEM WHEN I HAVE TO!
FATE! FATE-- LISTEN TO ME!
WHAT-- THE SPHERE OF A THOUSAND SCOURGES IS BROKEN?!
WHAT MADNESS IS THIS?
THE MADNESS OF DESPAIR, FATE-- AND OF URGENT NEED.
THE SMOKY AIR OF THE ROOM SEEMS TO DARKEN, AS THOUGH PORTENDING DIRE DESTINY AS A RESULT OF THE SHATTERED SPELL.
THEN, COLOR BEGINS TO DANCE BACK INTO THE MISTS, AND NO MAN CAN SAY WHAT THOUGHTS LIE BENEATH EITHER GRIM MASQUE, AS A DECISION IS REACHED.
10

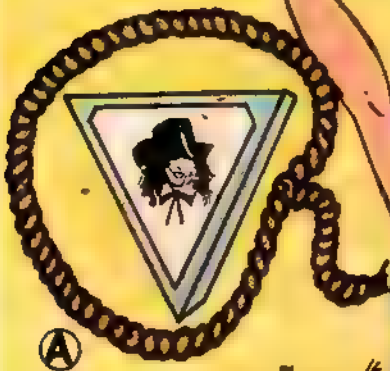
4:02 P.M.--AND GOTHAM HAS FINALLY LEARNED OF ITS PERIL.
THE MAYOR DELAYED THIS ANNOUNCEMENT TO PREVENT UNNECESSARY PANIC, BUT FELT WE NOW HAD TO BE TOLD.
WOW
THIS LEAVES THE CITY WITHOUT TIME TO EVACUATE OR TAKE ANY OTHER PRECAUTIONS.
IF YOU HAVE ANY HOPE, IT IS THE MEMBERS OF THE JUSTICE SOCIETY.
DID YOU CATCH THAT, TEAM? WE'RE REALLY IN THE HOME STRETCH NOW--THAT'S THE FOUR O'CLOCK NEWS!
ONE HOUR MAY NOT SEEM LONG TO YOU--BUT AT MY SPEED, IT IS LIKE ETERNITY.
WE'VE STILL GOT A GOOD CHANCE--NOW THAT WE HAVE A LEAD.
ALL RIGHT THEN--WE KNOW WHAT'S NEXT--
"--LET'S DO IT!"
WHAT THE--?? THE FLASH--HERE?
ONE POINT FOR OBSERVATION, PAL!
WHOOSH
I DISAGREE, FLASH. I THINK THEY SHOULD ONLY GET POINTS FOR COOPERATION--
--AND IT'S TIME TO START COOPERATING NOW!
KRRRUNCH
KHOOM
YOU HEARD THE MAN, SLIME--DROP YOUR GUNS AND POINT US TOWARDS YOUR BOSS.
WE'RE NOT INTERESTED IN YOU--THERE'LL BE ANOTHER DAY TO CLEAN UP THE DRUG RACKET.
OOF!
RIGHT NOW ALL WE NEED ARE ANSWERS!
CONTINUED ON 5TH PAGE FOLLOWING

HI-HO SILVER!
GO-GO GOLD!

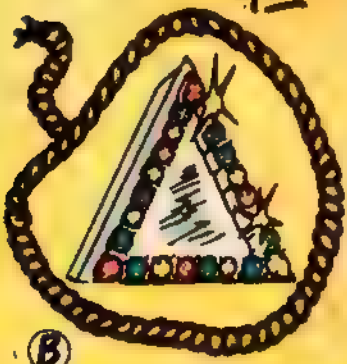
Eastern Cowgirl Fern™

INTRODUCES

FLASHTASTIC NEW COLLAR TIPS TO DRESS UP YOUR SHIRTS!

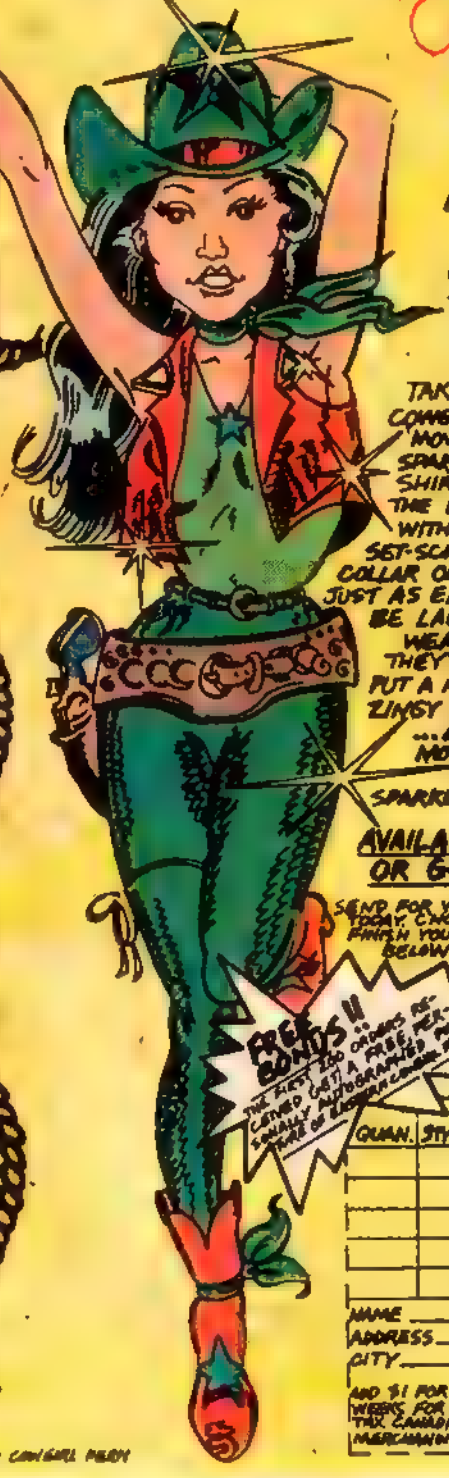


(A) EASTERN COWGIRL FERN'S™ FACE ON WHITE BACKGROUND. GOLD OR SILVER 4.95



(B) BORDER STUDDED WITH MULTI-COLORED RAINBOW RHINESTONES. GOLD OR SILVER. 5.95

(C) EASTERN COWGIRL FERN'S FACE ON GOLD OR SILVER. 4.95



TAKE A TIP FROM EASTERN COWGIRL FERN™ THESE REMOVEABLE COLLAR TIPS ADD SPARKLE AND PZAZZ TO ANY SHIRT WHETHER YOU'RE DOING THE DISCO OR RIDING THE RANGE. WITH A TURN OF THE HIDDEN SET-SCREW THEY ATTACH TO THE COLLAR OF YOUR SHIRTS AND COME OFF JUST AS EASILY WHEN SHIRTS MUST BE LAUNDERED. BUT ONCE YOU'RE WEARING THEM YOU'LL THINK THEY'RE A BRILLIANT IDEA. THEY PUT A NEW SPARKLE AND GIVE A ZINGY FLAIR TO ALMOST ANY SHIRT ...AND BECAUSE THEY'RE REMOVABLE YOU CAN ADD THAT SPECIAL TOUCH OF SPARKLE TO ALL YOUR OUTFITS.

AVAILABLE IN HI-HO SILVER OR GO-GO GOLD FINISH!

SEND FOR YOUR FLASHTASTIC COLLAR TIPS TODAY. CHOOSE EACH THE STYLE AND FINISH YOU WANT FROM THE ORDER COUPON BELOW AND ACT RIGHT AWAY.

FREE BONUS!! THE FIRST 250 ORDERS RECEIVED GET A FREE PERSONALLY AUTOGRAPHED PIC. OF EASTERN COWGIRL FERN.™

EASTERN COWGIRL FERN™
P.O. BOX 7328 PHILA. PA. 19101
ENCLOSED IS MY CHECK OR MONEY ORDER FOR $_____. PLEASE SEND MY FLASHTASTIC NEW COLLAR TIPS SPECIFIED BELOW.

QUAN.	STYLE	GOLD	SILVER	PRICE	TOTAL

NAME _____ AGE ____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP ____

ADD $1 FOR POSTAGE AND HANDLING. ALLOW 4-6 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY. PA. RESIDENTS ADD 6% SALES TAX. CANADIAN + FOREIGN ORDERS $5 ADDITIONAL. MERCHANDISE RETURNED IF NOT SATISFIED.

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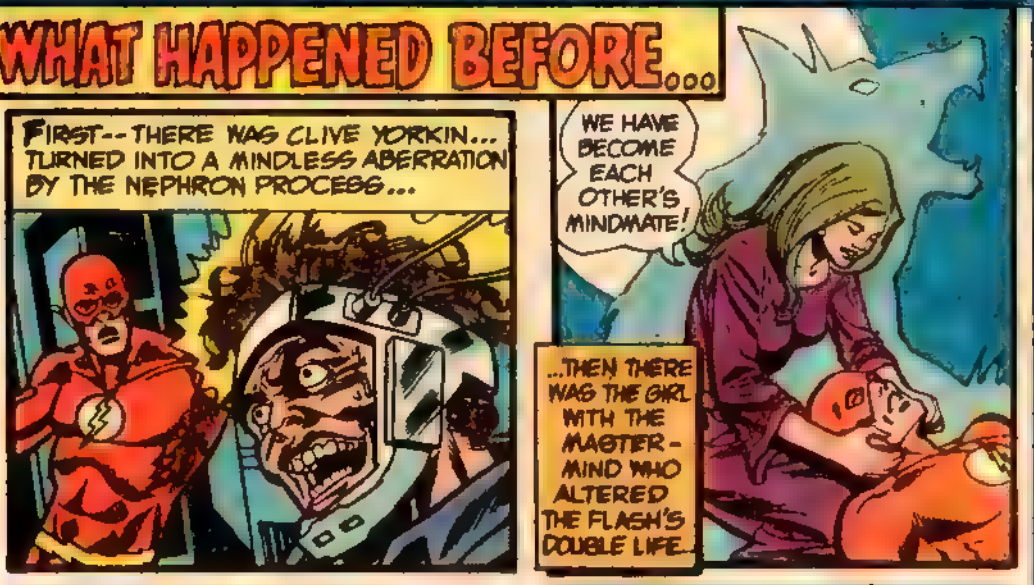
EASTERN COWGIRL FERN IS A REGISTERED TRADEMARK OF EASTERN COWGIRL FERN

WHAT HAPPENED BEFORE...


FIRST--THERE WAS CLIVE YORKIN... TURNED INTO A MINDLESS ABERRATION BY THE NEPHRON PROCESS...
WE HAVE BECOME EACH OTHER'S MINDMATE!
...THEN THERE WAS THE GIRL WITH THE MASTER-MIND WHO ALTERED THE FLASH'S DOUBLE LIFE...

...FOLLOWED BY THE TRAGIC DEATH OF BARRY'S WIFE, IRIS...AT A MASQUERADE PARTY...
...DURING WHICH SOMEBODY SECRETLY ADMINISTERED A MASSIVE DOSE OF ANGEL DUST TO FLASH CAUSING HIM TO FREAK OUT IN A DRUG WARD IN CENTRAL CITY HOSPITAL!

YOU'LL BE THE FIRST TO KNOW--
IF YOU SUBSCRIBE!!
HOW'S THIS FOR SURPRISES?

12 ISSUES
FOR THE PRICE OF **10!**

MAILED DIRECTLY TO YOU IN A FLAT PROTECTIVE WRAPPER!!

SEND TO: DC COMICS INC., SUBSCRIPTION DEPT
155 ALLEN BLVD., FARMINGDALE, N.Y. 11737

PLEASE SEND ME 12 ISSUES OF

☐ THE FLASH (Code #14) I ENCLOSE $4.00.

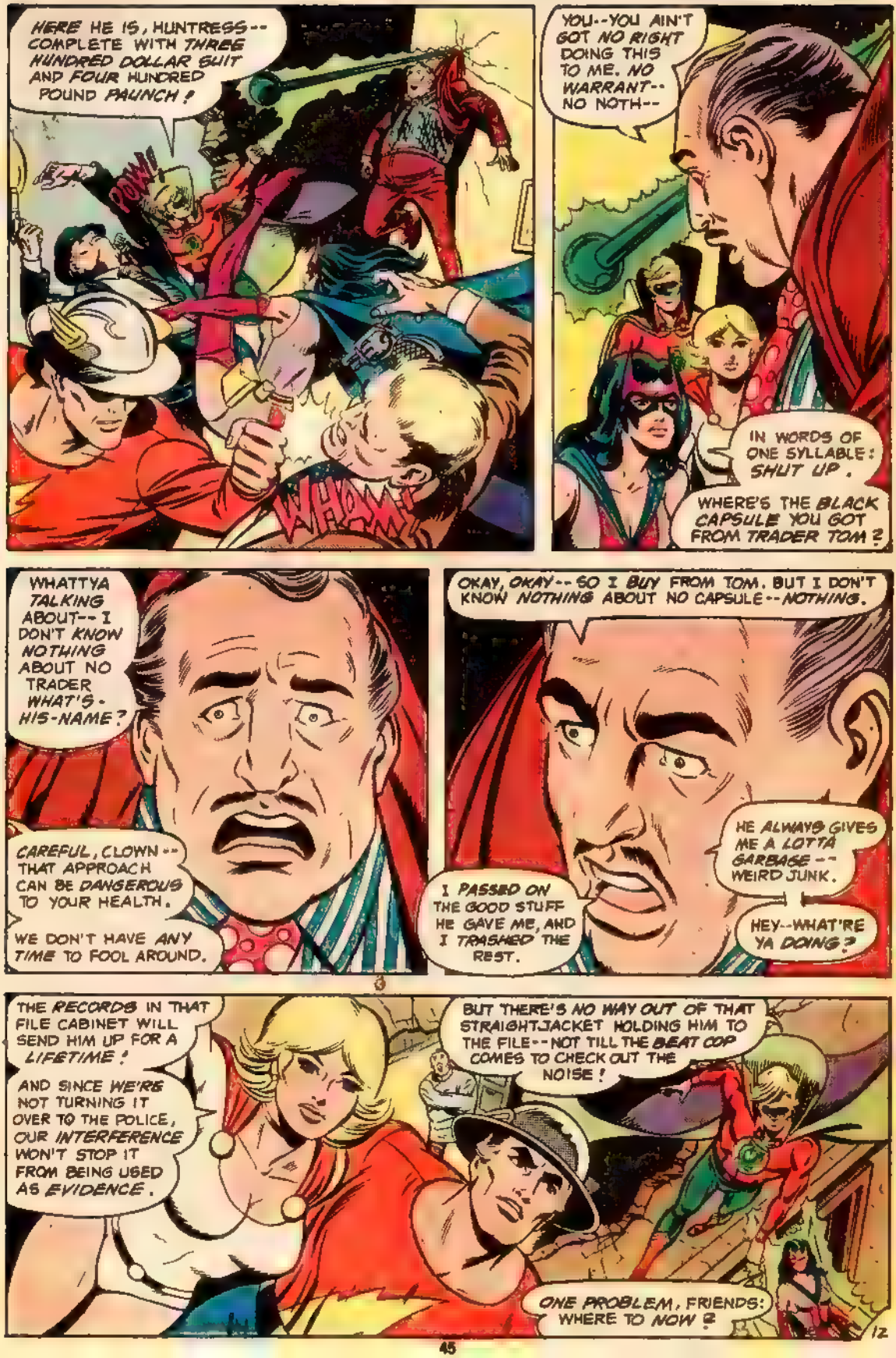
NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY & STATE _____

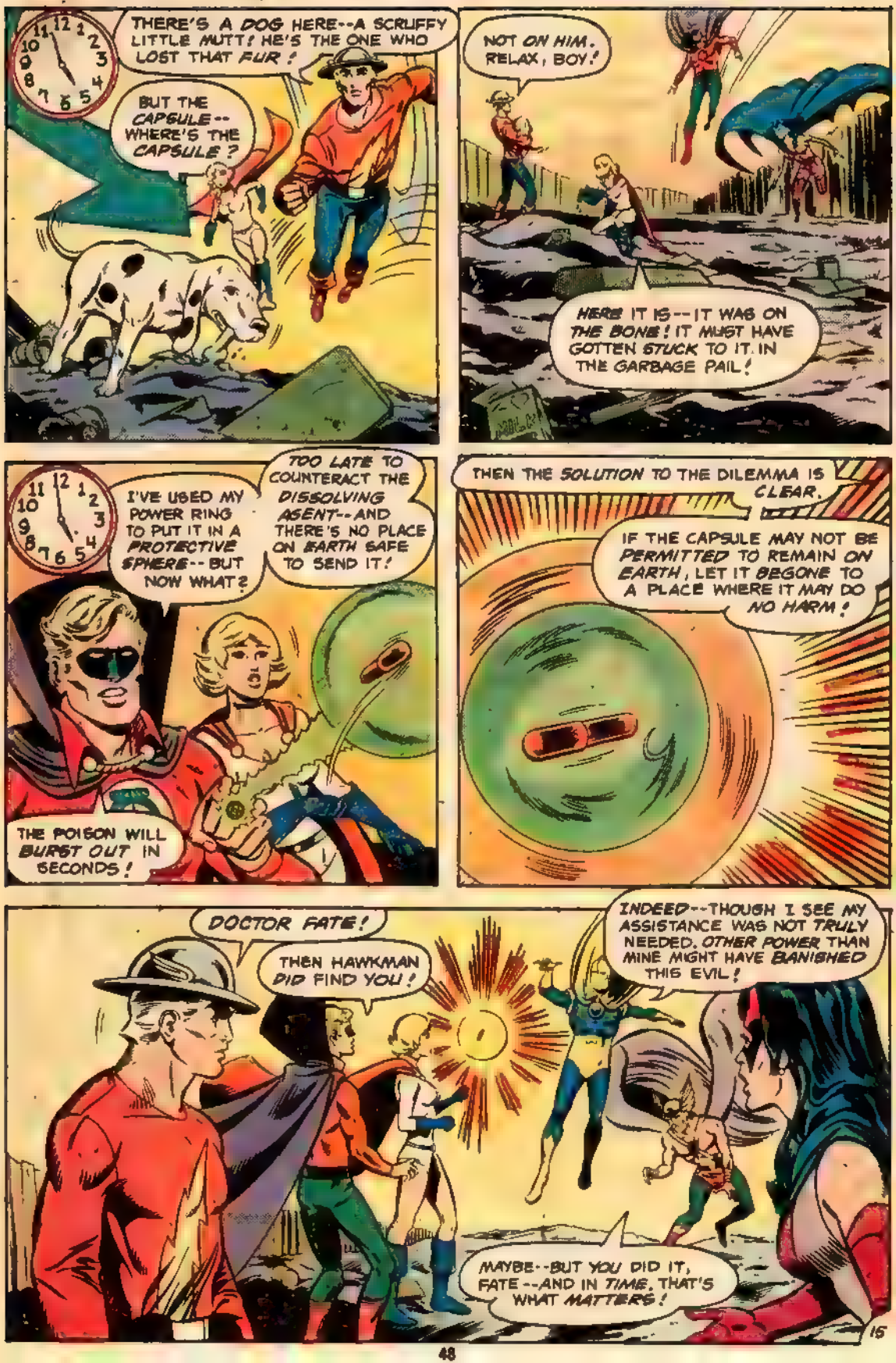
ZIP CODE _____

FULL REMITTANCE MUST ACCOMPANY ORDER. SEND CHECK OR MONEY ORDER, NOT CASH. PLEASE ALLOW 8 TO 10 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY OF THE FIRST ISSUES.


HERE HE IS, HUNTRESS-- COMPLETE WITH THREE HUNDRED DOLLAR SUIT AND FOUR HUNDRED POUND PAUNCH!
POW!
WHAM!
YOU--YOU AIN'T GOT NO RIGHT DOING THIS TO ME. NO WARRANT-- NO NOTH--
IN WORDS OF ONE SYLLABLE: SHUT UP.
WHERE'S THE BLACK CAPSULE YOU GOT FROM TRADER TOM?
WHATTYA TALKING ABOUT-- I DON'T KNOW NOTHING ABOUT NO TRADER WHAT'S-HIS-NAME?
CAREFUL, CLOWN-- THAT APPROACH CAN BE DANGEROUS TO YOUR HEALTH.
WE DON'T HAVE ANY TIME TO FOOL AROUND.
OKAY, OKAY-- SO I BUY FROM TOM. BUT I DON'T KNOW NOTHING ABOUT NO CAPSULE-- NOTHING.
I PASSED ON THE GOOD STUFF HE GAVE ME, AND I TRASHED THE REST.
HE ALWAYS GIVES ME A LOTTA GARBAGE-- WEIRD JUNK.
HEY--WHAT'RE YA DOING?
THE RECORDS IN THAT FILE CABINET WILL SEND HIM UP FOR A LIFETIME!
AND SINCE WE'RE NOT TURNING IT OVER TO THE POLICE, OUR INTERFERENCE WON'T STOP IT FROM BEING USED AS EVIDENCE.
BUT THERE'S NO WAY OUT OF THAT STRAIGHTJACKET HOLDING HIM TO THE FILE-- NOT TILL THE BEAT COP COMES TO CHECK OUT THE NOISE!
ONE PROBLEM, FRIENDS: WHERE TO NOW?
12

4:45 P.M. -- AND GOTHAM BEGINS WHAT CAN EASILY BECOME ITS LAST ANNUITED OF LIFE.
IF HE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT THE CAPSULE WAS, HE MUST HAVE THROWN IT OUT WITH THE OTHER UNSALE-ABLE DRUGS.
BUT IT'S NOT HERE.
THERE ARE MOLECULAR TRACES OF THE CAPSULE'S SPECIAL PROTECTIVE COATING--SO IT MUST HAVE BEEN HERE.
BUT THERE ARE THOUSANDS OF THINGS MADE WITH THAT CHEMICAL--MY RING CAN'T FIND THE EXACT OBJECT WE NEED.
WE'RE BACK WHERE WE STARTED.
NO...NOT THERE, GREEN LANTERN.
AT NOON WE WERE HOURS BEHIND THE CAPSULE ON ITS TRAIL. WE'RE MUCH CLOSER NOW.
MAYBE WE'RE CLOSE ENOUGH.
ALL WE NEED IS TO MAKE THIS GARBAGE PAIL SPEAK, AND THEN WE'LL KNOW WHERE TO LOOK.
AH-HAH!
A LITTLE TUFT OF FUR--FROM A LIVING ANIMAL, TO JUDGE FROM THE BLOODSPOT ON THE UNDERSIDE.
I THINK THE PAIL JUST HAD THE LAST WORD.

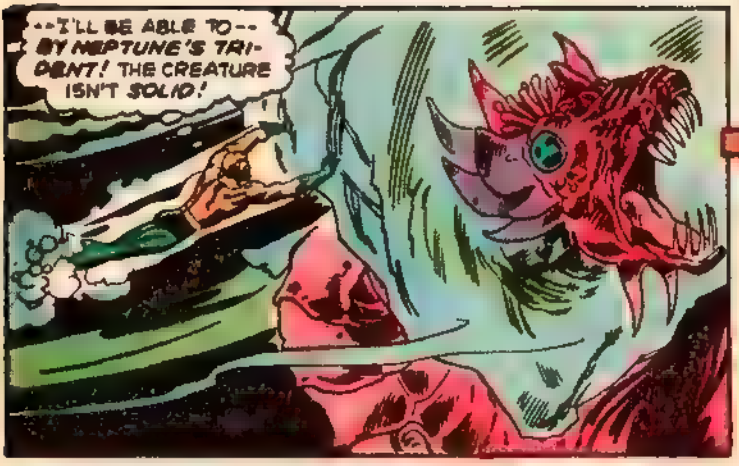
EVERY LIVING CREATURE IS DISTINCT ENOUGH THAT MY RING CAN TELL THEM APART, SO I CAN GET A TRACE ON THAT FUR.
GREAT!
BUT WHAT IF YOU'RE WRONG, HUNTRESS-- WHAT THEN?
WE ONLY HAVE MINUTES LEFT-- IF WE MAKE A WRONG DECISION NOW, IT'LL BE TOO LATE TO DO ANYTHING!
MAKE YOU A DEAL, FLASH. IF I'M WRONG--
--YOU'LL BE ONE OF THE FIRST TO KNOW.
ENOUGH KIDDING AROUND. COME ON, FLASH-- YOU'RE THE FASTEST MAN ALIVE--
--FOLLOW THE EMERALD ARROW!
GIVE ME HALF A SECOND TO CUSHION MY FALL BY DRUMMING UP A COLUMN OF AIR--
--AND WATCH MY DUST!
WHOOSH
14


THERE'S A DOG HERE--A SCRUFFY LITTLE MUTT! HE'S THE ONE WHO LOST THAT FUR!
BUT THE CAPSULE--WHERE'S THE CAPSULE?
NOT ON HIM. RELAX, BOY!
HERE IT IS--IT WAS ON THE BONE! IT MUST HAVE GOTTEN STUCK TO IT. IN THE GARBAGE PAIL!
I'VE USED MY POWER RING TO PUT IT IN A PROTECTIVE SPHERE--BUT NOW WHAT?
TOO LATE TO COUNTERACT THE DISSOLVING AGENT--AND THERE'S NO PLACE ON EARTH SAFE TO SEND IT!
THE POISON WILL BURST OUT IN SECONDS!
THEN THE SOLUTION TO THE DILEMMA IS CLEAR.
IF THE CAPSULE MAY NOT BE PERMITTED TO REMAIN ON EARTH, LET IT BEGONE TO A PLACE WHERE IT MAY DO NO HARM!
DOCTOR FATE!
THEN HAWKMAN DID FIND YOU!
INDEED--THOUGH I SEE MY ASSISTANCE WAS NOT TRULY NEEDED. OTHER POWER THAN MINE MIGHT HAVE BANISHED THIS EVIL!
MAYBE--BUT YOU DID IT, FATE--AND IN TIME, THAT'S WHAT MATTERS!
15

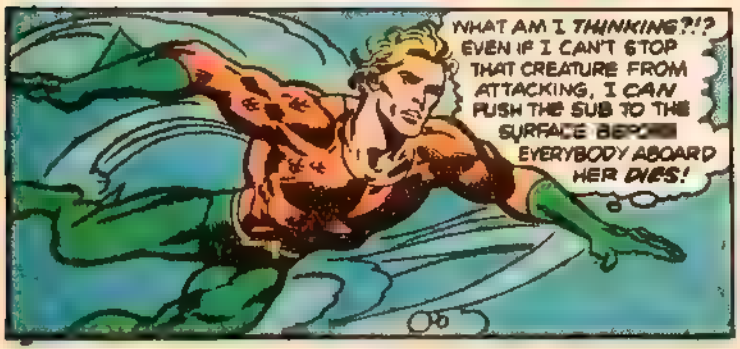
EPILOGUE
THE PORTENTS STILL SHOW IT WAS A GRAVE ERROR FOR ME TO HAVE LEFT MY TOWER AND SPELL, MY FRIENDS.
BUT THINK OF THE LIVES YOU HELPED SAVE!
THOSE LIVES WERE NOT ENTRUSTED TO MY PROTECTION--YET SOMEONE'S LIFE WAS.
AND THAT IS THE DOOM I FEAR.
REMEMBER TOO THAT I SHALL HAVE TO LIVE WITH THAT KNOWLEDGE...
...FOR MILLENNIA!
EASE UP, FATE--
--THIS IS AN AWFULLY GLOOMY GREETING!
MISTER TERRIFIC--?
GOOD TO SEE YOU--BUT WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
YOU GUYS INVITED ME TO REJOIN THE TEAM, REMEMBER--AT LEAST FOR YOUR REGULAR VISIT WITH THE JUSTICE LEAGUE?
WELL, THAT'S TODAY, ISN'T IT?
INDEED. PERHAPS THE TIME HAS COME.
SOONER THAN ANY OF US HAD THOUGHT.
NEXT MONTH--
JOIN OUR STALWART HEROES FOR A MYSTERY AND A MURDER IN JUSTICE LEAGUE #171 (ON SALE JULY 5TH)
AND THEN REJOIN US HERE, FOR--
"THE MAN WHO DEFEATED THE JUSTICE SOCIETY!"
IN THE NEXT ADVENTURE
16

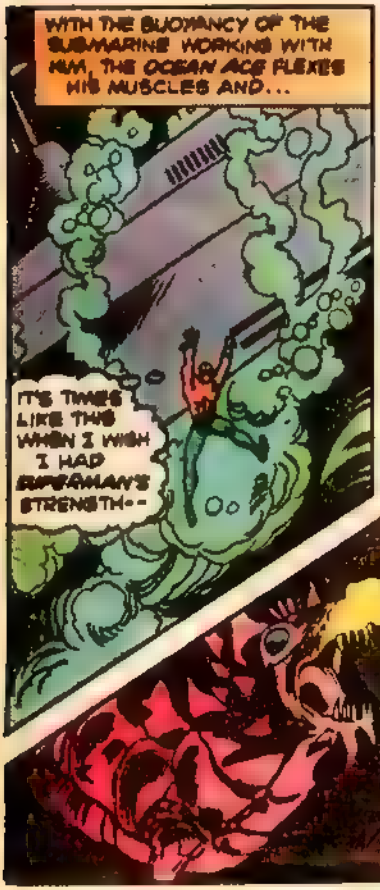
HE WAS BORN ARTHUR CURRY, HALF-BREED SON OF MAN AND MERMAID, AND ROSE TO BECOME RULER OF THE MIGHTY SEA KINGDOM OF ATLANTIS. EVENTUALLY HE RELINQUISHED THAT THRONE, CHOOSING INSTEAD TO REMAIN THE DAUNTLESS DEFENDER OF ALL THE SEVEN SEAS -- THE VALIANT SUPER-HERO CALLED...
AQUAMAN
TIME: 0700 HOURS
LOCATION: SOMEWHERE ALONG THE COAST OF ANTARCTICA, SOUTH OF AFRICA.
CURRENT STATUS: THE UNITED STATES SUBMARINE ICE-BUSTER, CURRENTLY ACCOMPANIED BY AQUAMAN, REPORTS AN INCREDIBLE DISCOVERY! FURTHER INFORMATION WILL FOLLOW!
GREAT NEPTUNE--THAT CREATURE IS UNLIKE ANYTHING I'VE EVER ENCOUNTERED!
AND IT CERTAINLY DOESN'T APPEAR TOO FRIENDLY!
ICE PACT
BOB ROZAKIS WRITER
DON NEWTON & DAN ADKINS ARTISTS
ADRIENNE ROY COLORIST
SHELLY LEFERMAN LETTERER
ROSS ANDRU EDITOR

WELL, FRIENDLY OR NOT, THERE ISN'T A CREATURE IN THE SEA WHO DOESN'T RESPOND TO MY TELEPATHIC COMMANDS!
KRAKK
WHAT--?! IT'S NOT RESPONDING — AND IT'S ATTACKING THE ICEBUSTER!
AQUAMAN--BZZZT... WHAT IN...KRAKKLE... IS THAT...PZAPP!!
THAT CREATURE'S CHARGE IS BREAKING UP MY RADIO HOOK-UP WITH THE SUB!
BUT I DON'T NEED A RADIO TO TELL ME THE CREW IS DEPENDING ON ME TO HELP THEM OUT!
THOSE ICEBERGS FLOATING OVERHEAD--
--IF I CAN HIT ONE WITH ENOUGH FORCE...

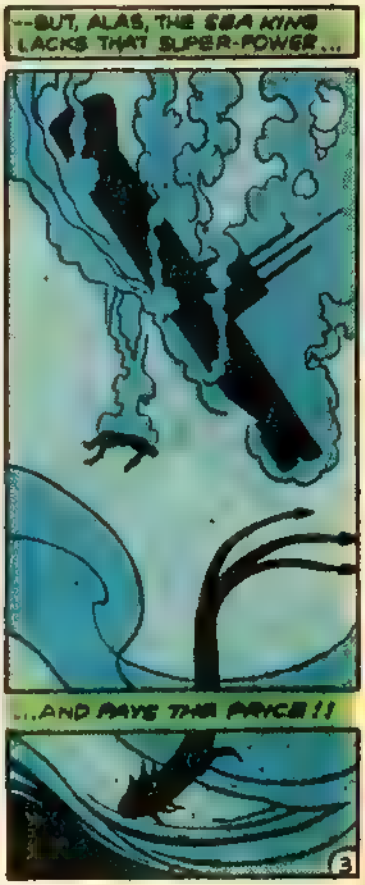

--I'LL BE ABLE TO-- BY NEPTUNE'S TRIDENT! THE CREATURE ISN'T SOLID!

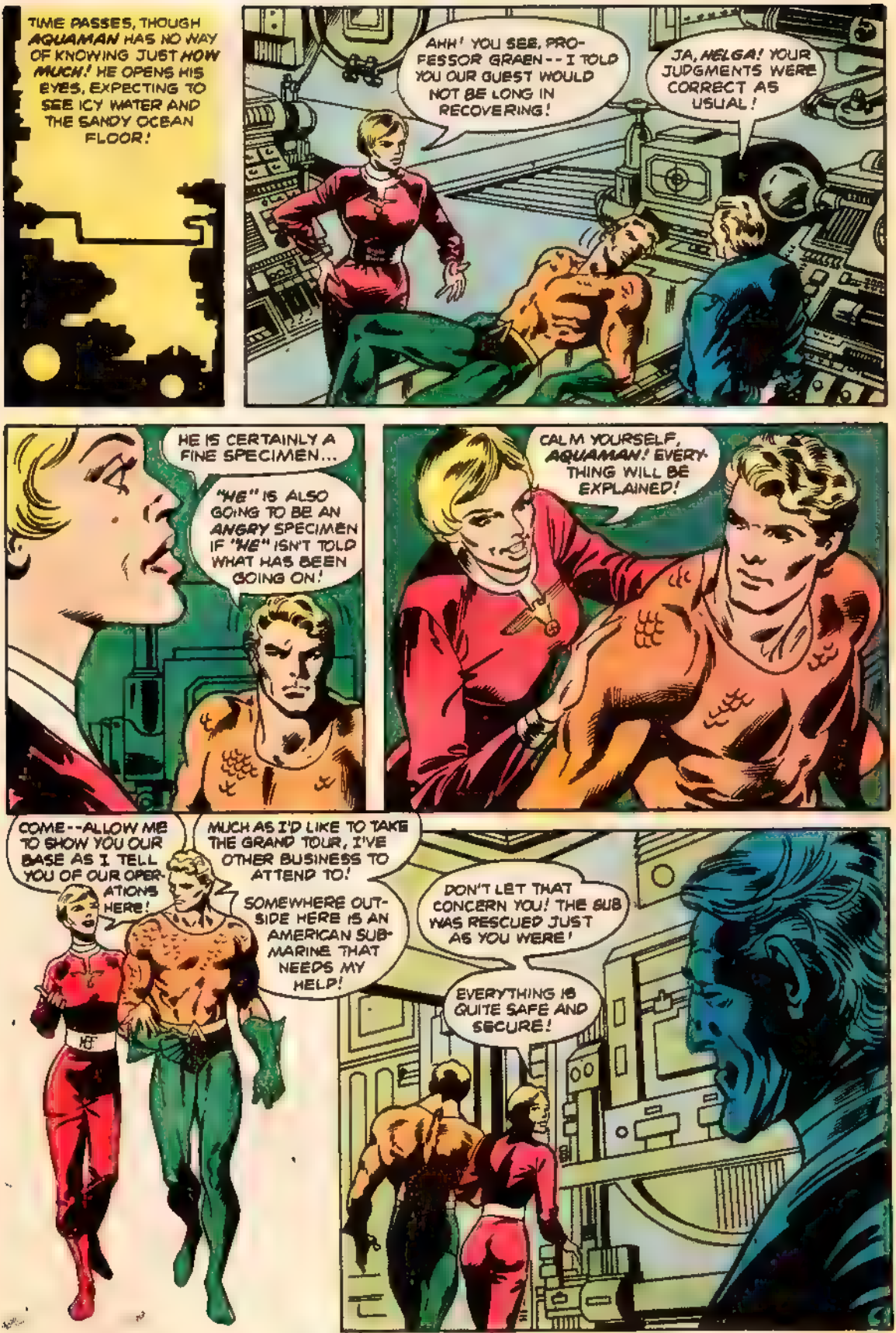
I'M POWERLESS TO HELP THE SHIP... OR THE MEN TRAPPED INSIDE!

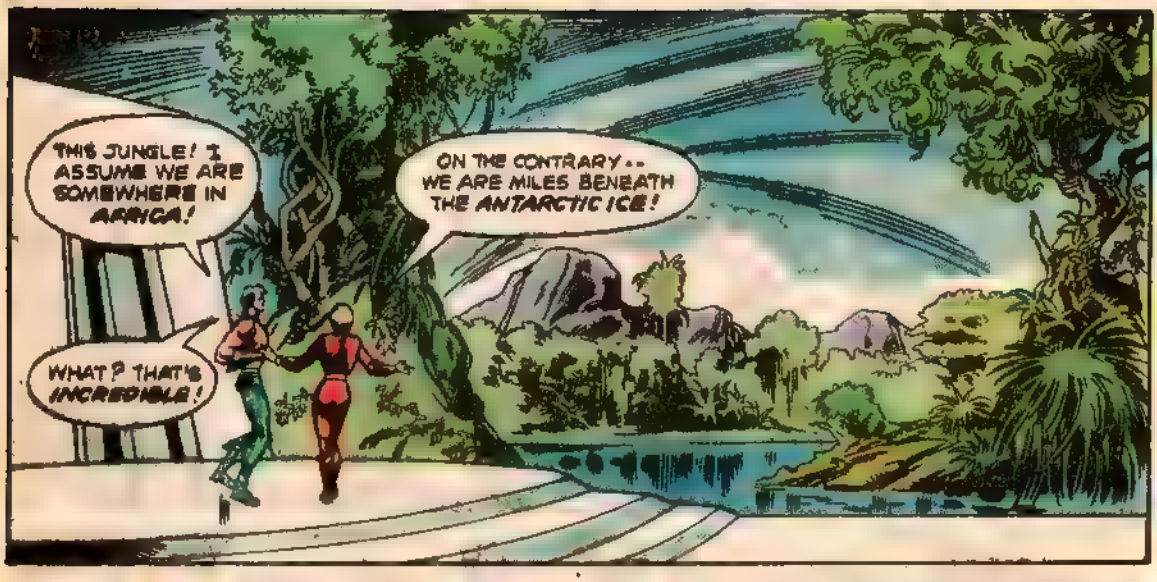

WHAT AM I THINKING?!? EVEN IF I CAN'T STOP THAT CREATURE FROM ATTACKING, I CAN PUSH THE SUB TO THE SURFACE BEFORE EVERYBODY ABOARD HER DIES!

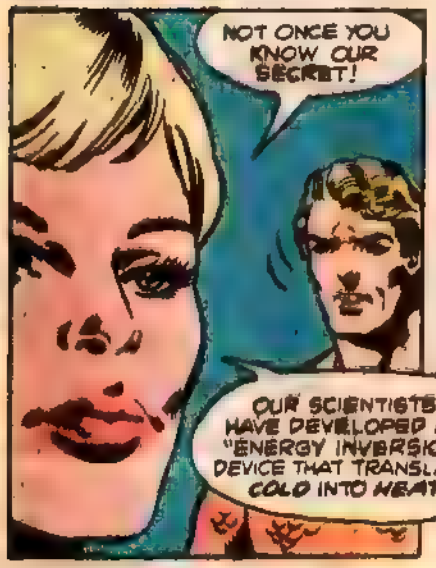

WITH THE BUOYANCY OF THE SUBMARINE WORKING WITH HIM, THE OCEAN ACE FLEXES HIS MUSCLES AND...
IT'S TIMES LIKE THIS WHEN I WISH I HAD SUPERMAN'S STRENGTH--

IT WOULD PERHAPS BE BETTER IF AQUAMAN HAD THE MAN OF STEEL'S INVULNERABILITY--
UNNNNNHH!


--BUT, ALAS, THE SEA KING LACKS THAT SUPER-POWER...
...AND HAVE THE PRICE!!
3


TIME PASSES, THOUGH AQUAMAN HAS NO WAY OF KNOWING JUST HOW MUCH! HE OPENS HIS EYES, EXPECTING TO SEE ICY WATER AND THE SANDY OCEAN FLOOR!
AHH! YOU SEE, PROFESSOR GRAEN--I TOLD YOU OUR GUEST WOULD NOT BE LONG IN RECOVERING!
JA, HELGA! YOUR JUDGMENTS WERE CORRECT AS USUAL!
HE IS CERTAINLY A FINE SPECIMEN...
"HE" IS ALSO GOING TO BE AN ANGRY SPECIMEN IF "HE" ISN'T TOLD WHAT HAS BEEN GOING ON!
CALM YOURSELF, AQUAMAN! EVERYTHING WILL BE EXPLAINED!
COME--ALLOW ME TO SHOW YOU OUR BASE AS I TELL YOU OF OUR OPERATIONS HERE!
MUCH AS I'D LIKE TO TAKE THE GRAND TOUR, I'VE OTHER BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO!
SOMEWHERE OUTSIDE HERE IS AN AMERICAN SUBMARINE THAT NEEDS MY HELP!
DON'T LET THAT CONCERN YOU! THE SUB WAS RESCUED JUST AS YOU WERE!
EVERYTHING IS QUITE SAFE AND SECURE!

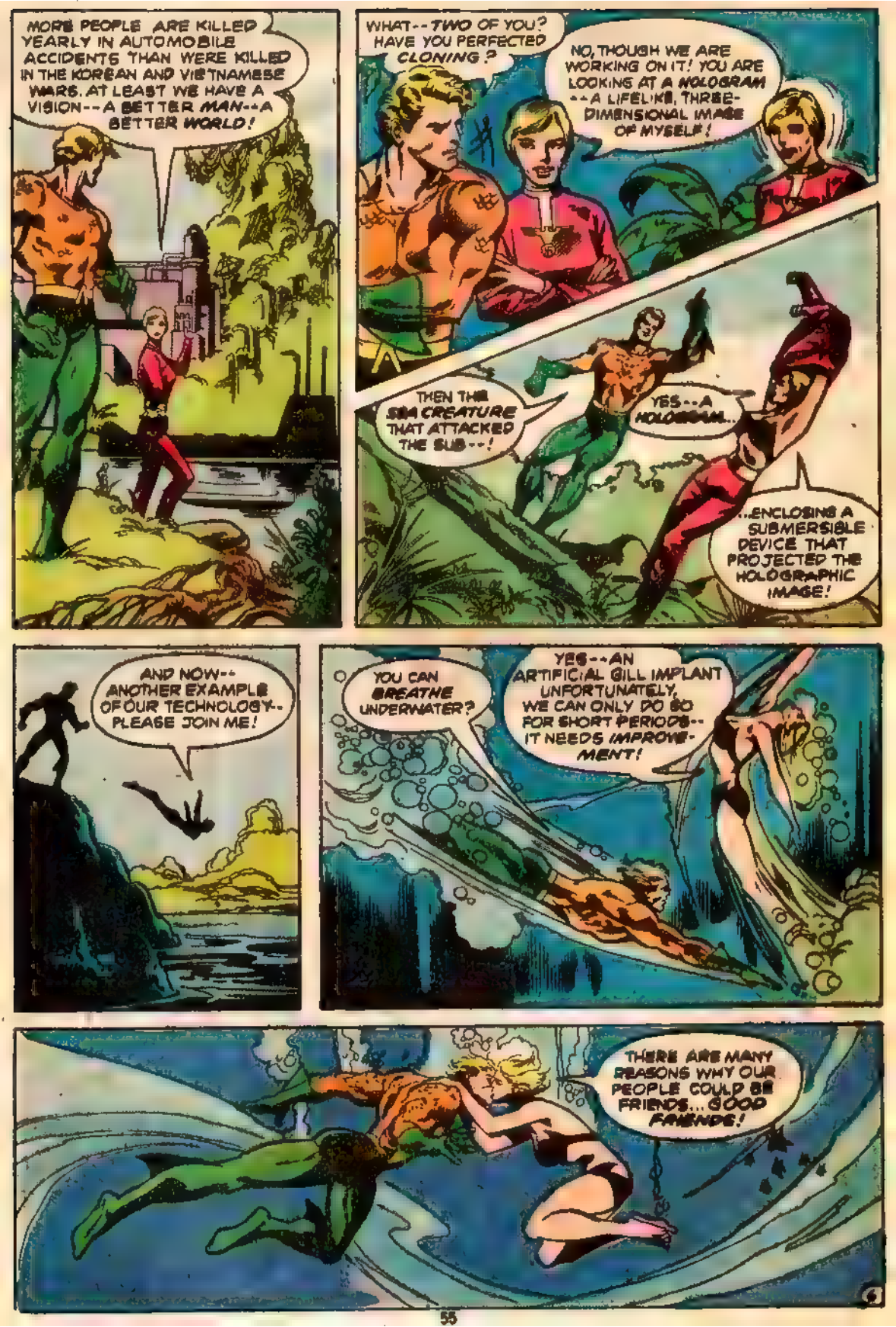

THIS JUNGLE! I ASSUME WE ARE SOMEWHERE IN AFRICA!
ON THE CONTRARY.. WE ARE MILES BENEATH THE ANTARCTIC ICE!
WHAT? THAT'S INCREDIBLE!

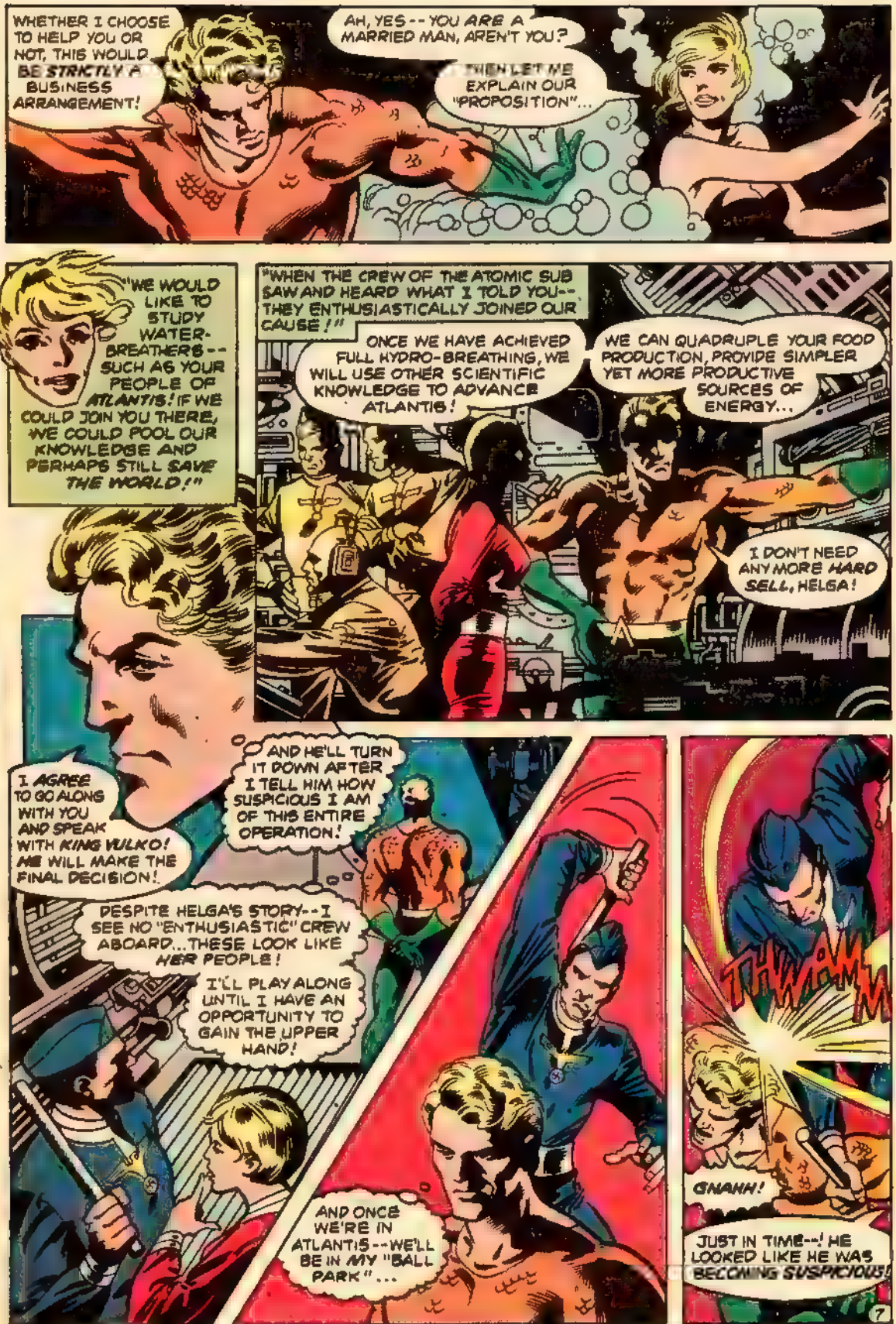

NOT ONCE YOU KNOW OUR SECRET!
OUR SCIENTISTS HAVE DEVELOPED AN "ENERGY INVERSION" DEVICE THAT TRANSLATES COLD INTO HEAT!

THEN THIS COMMUNITY IS NOT NEW! IT'S BEEN HERE FOR AWHILE?
IT WAS ESTABLISHED OVER 35 YEARS AGO --AND HAS GROWN EVERY DAY SINCE!

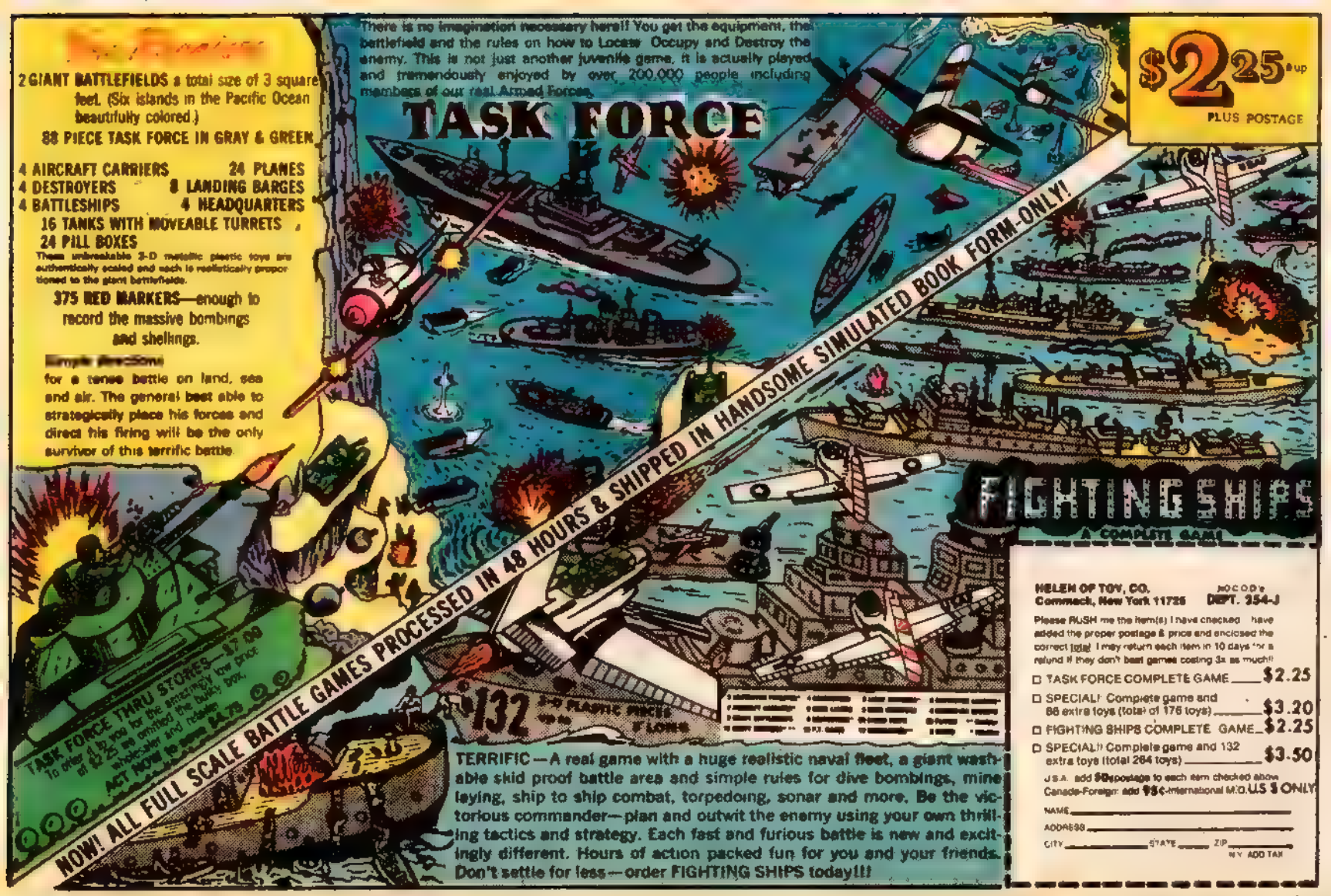
FROM THE ACCENTS, I WOULD GUESS YOUR PEOPLE CAME FROM EUROPE!
FROM GERMANY! THIS OPERATION WAS APPROVED AND FINANCED BY ADOLF HITLER AND THE THIRD REICH!

GREAT NEPTUNE! YOU'RE NAZIS!?!
BUT OF COURSE! WE ARE A COMMUNITY DEDICATED TO THE ADVANCEMENT AND GENETIC IMPROVEMENT OF THE HUMAN RACE!
HITLER'S IDEA OF IMPROVING THE HUMAN RACE WAS WIPING OUT MILLIONS OF PEOPLE HE DIDN'T LIKE! POINTLESS, SENSELESS MURDER!
5


MORE PEOPLE ARE KILLED YEARLY IN AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENTS THAN WERE KILLED IN THE KOREAN AND VIETNAMESE WARS. AT LEAST WE HAVE A VISION--A BETTER MAN--A BETTER WORLD!
WHAT--TWO OF YOU? HAVE YOU PERFECTED CLONING?
NO, THOUGH WE ARE WORKING ON IT! YOU ARE LOOKING AT A HOLOGRAM --A LIFELIKE, THREE-DIMENSIONAL IMAGE OF MYSELF!
THEN THE SEA CREATURE THAT ATTACKED THE SUB--!
YES--A HOLOGRAM...
...ENCLOSING A SUBMERSIBLE DEVICE THAT PROJECTED THE HOLOGRAPHIC IMAGE!
AND NOW--ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF OUR TECHNOLOGY--PLEASE JOIN ME!
YOU CAN BREATHE UNDERWATER?
YES--AN ARTIFICIAL GILL IMPLANT UNFORTUNATELY, WE CAN ONLY DO SO FOR SHORT PERIODS--IT NEEDS IMPROVEMENT!
THERE ARE MANY REASONS WHY OUR PEOPLE COULD BE FRIENDS... GOOD FRIENDS!


WHETHER I CHOOSE TO HELP YOU OR NOT, THIS WOULD BE STRICTLY A BUSINESS ARRANGEMENT!
AH, YES -- YOU ARE A MARRIED MAN, AREN'T YOU?
THEN LET ME EXPLAIN OUR "PROPOSITION"...
"WE WOULD LIKE TO STUDY WATER-BREATHERS -- SUCH AS YOUR PEOPLE OF ATLANTIS! IF WE COULD JOIN YOU THERE, WE COULD POOL OUR KNOWLEDGE AND PERHAPS STILL SAVE THE WORLD!"
"WHEN THE CREW OF THE ATOMIC SUB SAW AND HEARD WHAT I TOLD YOU-- THEY ENTHUSIASTICALLY JOINED OUR CAUSE!"
ONCE WE HAVE ACHIEVED FULL HYDRO-BREATHING, WE WILL USE OTHER SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE TO ADVANCE ATLANTIS!
WE CAN QUADRUPLE YOUR FOOD PRODUCTION, PROVIDE SIMPLER YET MORE PRODUCTIVE SOURCES OF ENERGY...
I DON'T NEED ANY MORE HARD SELL, HELGA!
I AGREE TO GO ALONG WITH YOU AND SPEAK WITH KING VULKO! HE WILL MAKE THE FINAL DECISION!
AND HE'LL TURN IT DOWN AFTER I TELL HIM HOW SUSPICIOUS I AM OF THIS ENTIRE OPERATION!
DESPITE HELGA'S STORY--I SEE NO "ENTHUSIASTIC" CREW ABOARD...THESE LOOK LIKE HER PEOPLE!
I'LL PLAY ALONG UNTIL I HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO GAIN THE UPPER HAND!
AND ONCE WE'RE IN ATLANTIS--WE'LL BE IN MY "BALL PARK"...
THWAM
GNAHH!
JUST IN TIME--! HE LOOKED LIKE HE WAS BECOMING SUSPICIOUS!
7

CONTINUED ON 43RD PAGE FOLLOWING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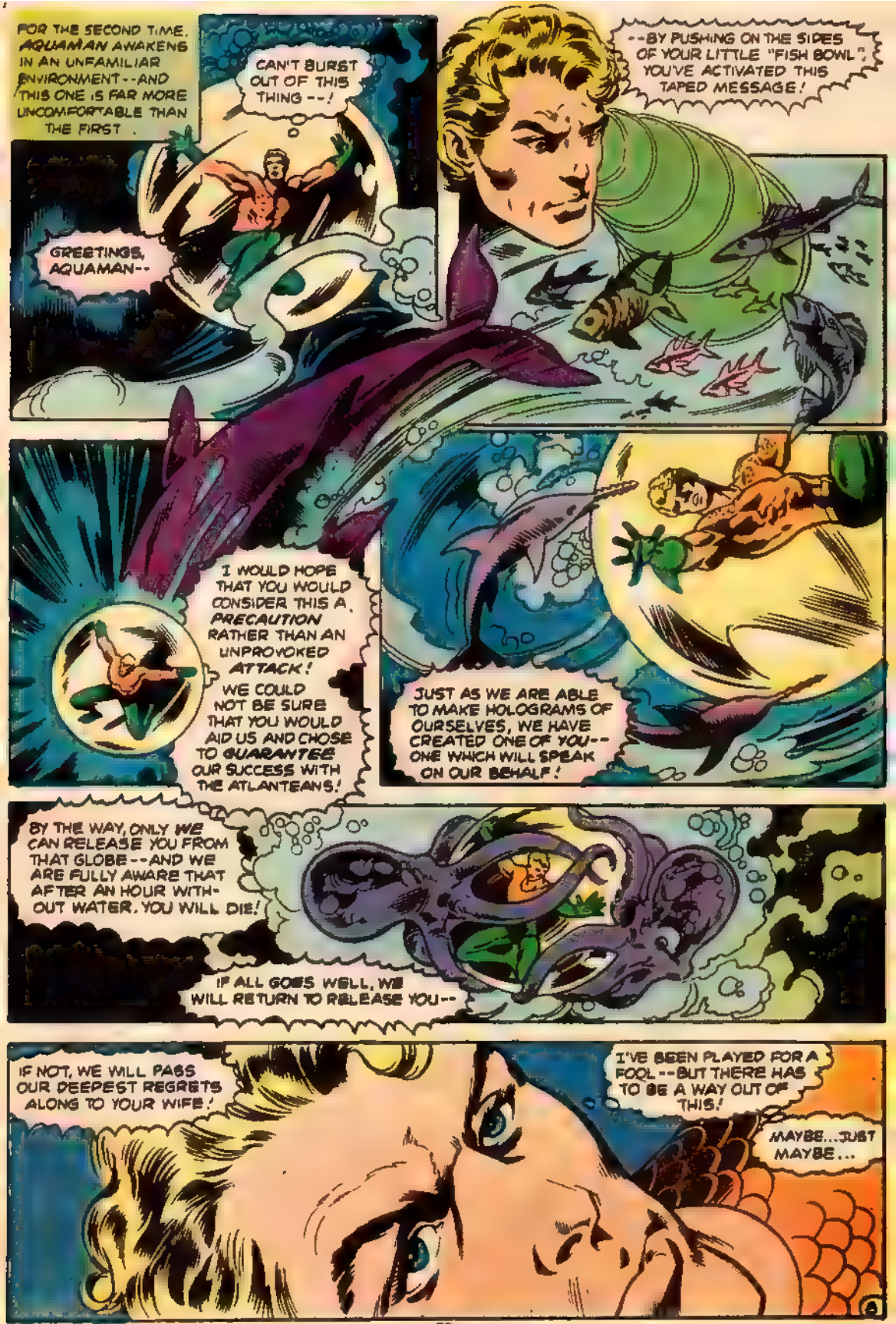
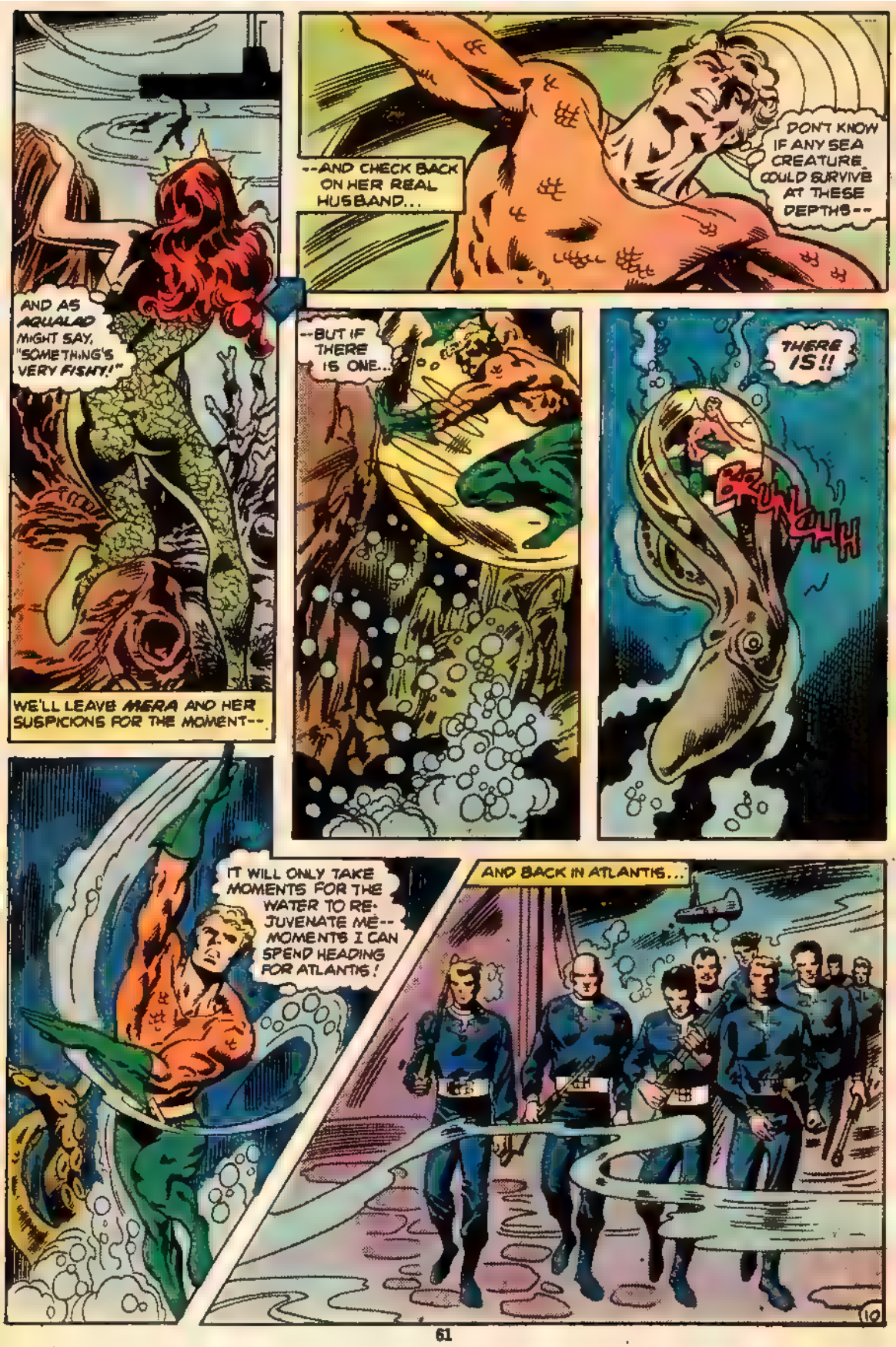
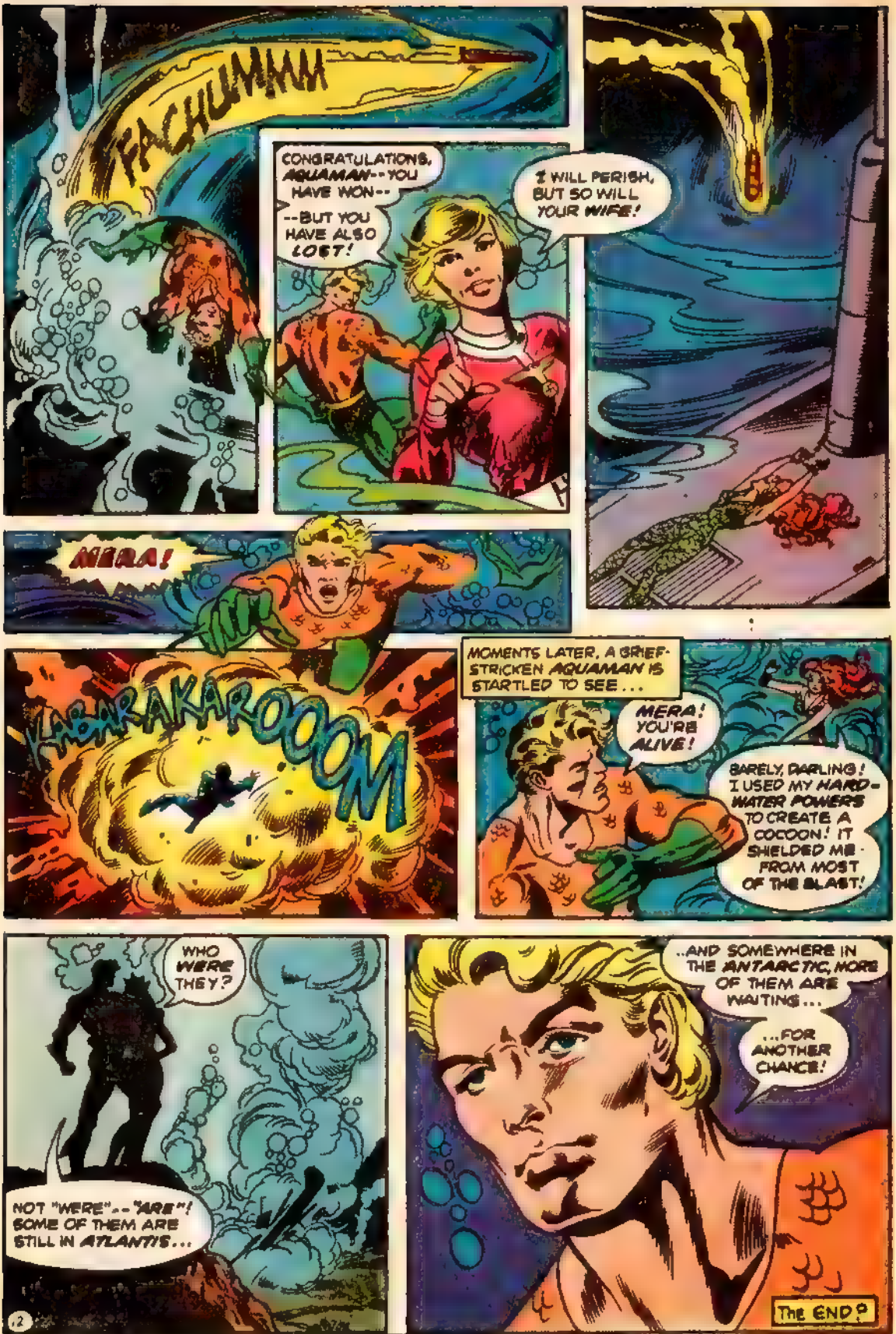

FOR THE SECOND TIME, AQUAMAN AWAKENS IN AN UNFAMILIAR ENVIRONMENT--AND THIS ONE IS FAR MORE UNCOMFORTABLE THAN THE FIRST.
CAN'T BURST OUT OF THIS THING--!
GREETINGS, AQUAMAN--
--BY PUSHING ON THE SIDES OF YOUR LITTLE "FISH BOWL", YOU'VE ACTIVATED THIS TAPED MESSAGE!
I WOULD HOPE THAT YOU WOULD CONSIDER THIS A PRECAUTION RATHER THAN AN UNPROVOKED ATTACK! WE COULD NOT BE SURE THAT YOU WOULD AID US AND CHOSE TO GUARANTEE OUR SUCCESS WITH THE ATLANTEANS!
JUST AS WE ARE ABLE TO MAKE HOLOGRAMS OF OURSELVES, WE HAVE CREATED ONE OF YOU--ONE WHICH WILL SPEAK ON OUR BEHALF!
BY THE WAY, ONLY WE CAN RELEASE YOU FROM THAT GLOBE--AND WE ARE FULLY AWARE THAT AFTER AN HOUR WITHOUT WATER, YOU WILL DIE!
IF ALL GOES WELL, WE WILL RETURN TO RELEASE YOU--
IF NOT, WE WILL PASS OUR DEEPEST REGRETS ALONG TO YOUR WIFE!
I'VE BEEN PLAYED FOR A FOOL--BUT THERE HAS TO BE A WAY OUT OF THIS!
MAYBE...JUST MAYBE...

...I CAN USE THE UNDERSEA PRESSURES TO FREE MYSELF...
I'VE NEVER CHECKED JUST HOW DEEP THIS OCEANIC TRENCH IS--I JUST HOPE IT'S DEEP ENOUGH!
BUT...
GREAT NEPTUNE--I'M STUCK! AND IT'S TOO DEEP FOR ANY OF MY FINNY FRIENDS TO HELP ME!
AND WITH AQUAMAN NOW FORCED TO COUNT THE MOMENTS HE HAS LEFT, WE SWITCH TO ATLANTIS...
...WHERE A MASTER PLAN IS BEING EXECUTED--
AND SO, VULKO, AND PEOPLE OF ATLANTIS, I FULLY ENDORSE THE PLANS THESE MEN AND WOMEN HAVE--AND URGE YOU TO ACCEPT THEM WARMLY!
DO IT, VULKO!
YES, AQUAMAN HAS NEVER STEERED US WRONG!
WE TRUST HIM!
WELL...
...IF YOU ARE FRIENDS OF AQUAMAN, YOU ARE FRIENDS OF ATLANTIS!
I WELCOME YOU AND YOUR CREW, MELGA!
THANK YOU, YOUR HIGHNESS...
...WE WILL RETURN TO OUR SHIP--AND PREPARE FOR SETTLEMENT IN YOUR CITY!
ODD--AQUAMAN IS ACTING VERY STRANGELY!


--AND CHECK BACK ON HER REAL HUSBAND...
DON'T KNOW IF ANY SEA CREATURE COULD SURVIVE AT THESE DEPTHS--
AND AS AQUALAD MIGHT SAY, "SOMETHING'S VERY FISHY!"
WE'LL LEAVE MERA AND HER SUSPICIONS FOR THE MOMENT--
--BUT IF THERE IS ONE...
THERE IS!!
GRUNGHH
IT WILL ONLY TAKE MOMENTS FOR THE WATER TO RE-JUVENATE ME-- MOMENTS I CAN SPEND HEADING FOR ATLANTIS!
AND BACK IN ATLANTIS...

I'M TOO LATE TO WARN VULKO--HELGA'S MEN ARE ALREADY ENTERING THE CITY!
AND THOSE DON'T LOOK LIKE FRIENDLY SCIENTIFIC DEVICES THOSE MEN ARE CARRYING!
HALT, AQUAMAN! ANY FURTHER MOVEMENT TOWARDS THIS SUBMARINE... OR ANY ACTION AGAINST MY MEN...WILL RESULT IN THE DESTRUCTION OF THE CITY!
SORRY, LADY! I PLAYED THIS YOUR WAY FOR TOO LONG! NOW WE PLAY MY WAY!
SHE WON'T DARE ATTACK ATLANTIS WHILE HER MEN ARE THERE!
WRONG!
I WARNED YOU! NOW ALL YOUR PEOPLE WILL DIE!
GATHOOM
GREAT NEPTUNE! SHE'S FIRED THE SUB'S NUCLEAR TORPEDO AT THE CITY!
BHOMP


FACHUMMM
CONGRATULATIONS, AQUAMAN--YOU HAVE WON--
--BUT YOU HAVE ALSO LOST!
I WILL PERISH, BUT SO WILL YOUR WIFE!
MERA!
KABOOMRAKAROOOM
MOMENTS LATER, A GRIEF-STRICKEN AQUAMAN IS STARTLED TO SEE...
MERA! YOU'RE ALIVE!
BARELY, DARLING! I USED MY HARD-WATER POWERS TO CREATE A COCOON! IT SHIELDED ME FROM MOST OF THE BLAST!
WHO WERE THEY?
NOT "WERE"--"ARE"! SOME OF THEM ARE STILL IN ATLANTIS...
..AND SOMEWHERE IN THE ANTARCTIC, MORE OF THEM ARE WAITING...
...FOR ANOTHER CHANCE!
The END?

NEXT ISSUE ON SALE THE FOURTH WEEK IN AUG.

DATELINE: ADVENTURE

L-321

Dear Editor:

Well, I want to congratulate you on turning this book around. Just five issues ago, this was a 35¢ comic with Superboy as the main lead, and now it is a Dollar comic with five full-length stories with the JSA as the main lead, although they are not taking control of the whole book. I just have one complaint, and a small one; let's not have the Justice Society on the cover of every issue, how about letting Deadman and Aquaman split the cover seeing how they are both wrapping up their adventures. Anyway it's everything you said it would be, and more. See you in sixty days.

Eric Petty
19834 Hubbard Road
Battle Creek, MI 49017

We're quite proud of the changes ADVENTURE has gone through, and though we're sad to see the introduction of ads this time around (and the disappearance of Wonder Woman to our new companion magazine as a result), we think we've finally got ADVENTURE charted on a straight and sound course.

* * * * *

Dear Sirs;

This is a letter about only one story in your book. You see, after reading "Only legends live forever" I felt that I had to stop and write the many things I felt.

With this story I felt that a little more of the things that make us all mortal was added to every character in the DC line whether they be Man of Steel or some half remembered character from thirty years ago. It's true, other heroes have died before. Who can forget the way the Spectre or Ferro Lad met their deaths saving countless others? All of this will be remembered and cared about. But this was the original Batman; the Batman that so many of us grew up with, the Batman whose mind and body were his only super powers, the only powers he ever needed or wanted.

But I will say this one more thing. And this is important. Like the hero he was and is he went out with style. This was as far from the Bat-clown television once made of him as you could get. He was brave. He walked tall. I am quite sure that in that last moment of life he looked death square in the eye and never flinched.

May we all meet our end in this manner.

Lewis R. Valladares
131-09 Liberty Ave.
Richmond Hill, N.Y. 11419

As expected, the death of Batman elicited the heavyweight mail response of the issue—mostly favorable, some unfavorable, and almost all fascinating tributes to the impact the character had on us all.

* * * * *

Dear Sirs,

While everyone is marvelling over the demise of Batman (Excellent story...) I would like to talk about Aquaman, a character I have faithfully followed since the first issue of his own magazine. Paul Kupperburg has done a good job with the scripting after a slow start, but there is something missing in Aquaman.

First, Aquaman is so deadly dreary these days. Even Superman and Batman have comic relief. When Aquababy was killed, the family tomfoolery that was so unique and appealing was lost. Remember Quisp, the funny magical imp from early Aquaman? His occasional return might be nice. Also, let Aquagirl return, but she doesn't have to have a romance with Aqualad. These changes, plus a gradual return to basic marital happiness between Aquaman and Mera would be good moves.

Second, you are missing the opportunities from some past issues for good supporting characters. In issue 57, we have Durham, a black man betrayed by Black Manta who now breathes water. His return to Atlantis, and his presence in the eventual return battle with Manta would be interesting. Also, in DC Comics Presents #5, Len Wein showed us that the two Atlantis' have diplomatic relations. It might be interesting for Lori Lemaris and Ronal to appear as supporting characters in Aquaman. Imagine the complexities if Aqualad fell in love with a true mermaiden! Most of all, Lori would finally have a place to call home in the Aquaman strip.

Personally, I cast my vote for Aquaman and Mera to have another child soon. I still hate you guys for killing off Aquababy, but life goes on. How about taking a reader's poll on this?

James A. De Marco
995 Pomona Road #79
Corona, Calif. 91720

No sooner said than done. what say you, readers, to these many and varied, underwater ideas?

* * * * *

Dear People,

Gad, issue #462 was pathetic! The Flash had yet another squabble with his wife, saved her life, and then the ungrateful creature practically bit his head off for "interfering" (sure, she didn't remember what happened, but the reader's reaction is still disgust). Then there was another dull Deadman story, enlivened only by the beautiful Garcia-Lopez art. Frankly, I never liked Deadman in the first place, but these circus stereotypes of supporting characters are driving me bananas. To take only the most flagrant example, it seems never to have occurred to any of you people that the terms "strongman" and "simple-minded but good-hearted" are not necessarily synonymous.

The Wonder Woman story was another disaster by Jack C. Harris with simplistic and simple-minded characters, some of whom go so far as to switch back and forth from utterly good to totally evil at the drop of a magic ruby. Also, the whole sequence on p. 49 makes no sense - there seem to be panels missing. How anyone who could write such great stories for Supergirl in *Superman Family* could produce nothing but junk for Wonder Woman is difficult to understand. Why, oh why, did Harris ever switch assignments?

In the Aquaman story, Paul Kupperberg, not content with continuing his relentless misrepresentation of Aquaman as a violence-prone vigilante, contrary to the sea king's entire past history, has now bent King Vulko's character completely out of shape, too. Sorry, but if Vulko were given to stonewalling and self-deception for sake of political expedience, I'm sure Aquaman and the people of Atlantis would never have accepted him as the new ruler. After all, they can't all be utter fools.

But the Justice Society story was the worst. *All-Star* was one of my favorite comics, and I usually like Paul Levitz's writing, but "The Death of Batman" was nothing but a waste, in every sense of the word. Personally, I would have found it more interesting if the Earth-Two Bruce Wayne had remained alive and become more fully integrated into the JSA's adventures, occasionally appearing even when there

was not a dire emergency. However, his death could have provided the opportunity for a moving story that would somehow sum up the many contradictory qualities of this man who in many ways was so different from his Earth-One counterpart.

Instead, Wayne's death - and especially his last minute switch into costume, apparently added for no other reason than to make sure even the most dull-witted reader realized that this was actually a superhero dying - wasn't even dramatically necessary. The villain whom even Power Girl's Kryptonian might couldn't overcome seemed created for the express purpose of making history by killing DC's second-biggest hero. Neither the source of his powers nor the truth about his grudge against Wayne were explained satisfactorily, and it's beginning to look as if they never will be. The utter implausibility of the whole situation left the impression that Batman's death was not only pointless (there must have been some other way to overcome that guy), but accomplished nothing but ridding the world of one maniac who apparently is merely the tip of the iceberg of some bigger plot. Said plot, alas, will probably prove to be just as anticlimactic as the historic death was.

Furthermore, doesn't Batman's determination to go out with his boots and cape on blow his secret identity and, by a simply reasoning process even the stupidest crook can easily perform, those of Robin and the Huntress? Maybe Wayne wanted everyone to know he was Batman after he was dead, but it'll sure make things tough for his daughter and "son." And that little scene in the graveyard where Dick responded to his "sister's" insistence that he not don his old mentor's cowl and costume with a bewildered, "I don't understand, Helena. You mean *you* want to be the Batman?" came across as pure farce. If Grayson were really that dumb, he wouldn't have survived a single season as Batman's little helper. And Staton over-did the broad grin on the ghostly Batman face looming over Dick and Helena when they finally justified the story's title by agreeing that, "Only legends live forever...not the men who make them." A dignified smile of approval would have been in order, not a Jimmy Carter campaign smirk.

Well, thank you for listening. If you print this, I guess you'll print anything.

Margaret O'Connell
Graduate College, Box 208
Princeton, NJ 08540

No...hardly anything. But yours was perhaps the best-reasoned negative letter on the death of Batman, and while we feel that you simply missed a number of the points and emotional overtones we successfully conveyed to most of the readers in that story.

*****

Dear Editor,

Bravo issues #461 and 462! It's obvious that you guys are getting a handle on the potential dollar size holds for Adventure. In it's new format, I personally feel that the void left when 80 page Giants disappeared so many years ago has finally been filled. This is especially true of 462 where plot and page length finally seemed to find each other - and what a glorious reunion that was.

I have only one gripe about the new format, the eviction of Green Lantern from "regular"-slots. Your response to this, that he does have his own mag (even if it is shared) just doesn't satisfy me, mainly because FLASH, and WW are just as fortunate. But in thinking about this, I wonder if you don't have the right idea for the whole Adventure concept.

When you appoint "regulars" you invite forced, rehashed plots. On the other hand, I'm sure that there are a lot of remarkable plots lying around gathering dust, just because they can't find a home. Your on-going success with the new JSA, Deadman, and Aquaman story lines are dramatic examples of these homeless features.

My suggestion is that Adventure adopt these orphans, but only on a storyline by storyline basis, thus insuring continued excitement in this new format. At the very least, provide a "Showcase" slot in each issue for new plots and ideas. Of course, this may mean dropping more favorites (I won't name names), but it could just make Adventure the most exciting comic in decades. And please don't rule out any book length features (especially for a JSA or JLA super-feature).

Other than that I can't wait for the next adventure in Adventure. Keep up the great work!

Bill Watkins
Box 526 Cardinal Station
Catholic University
Washington, D.C. 20064

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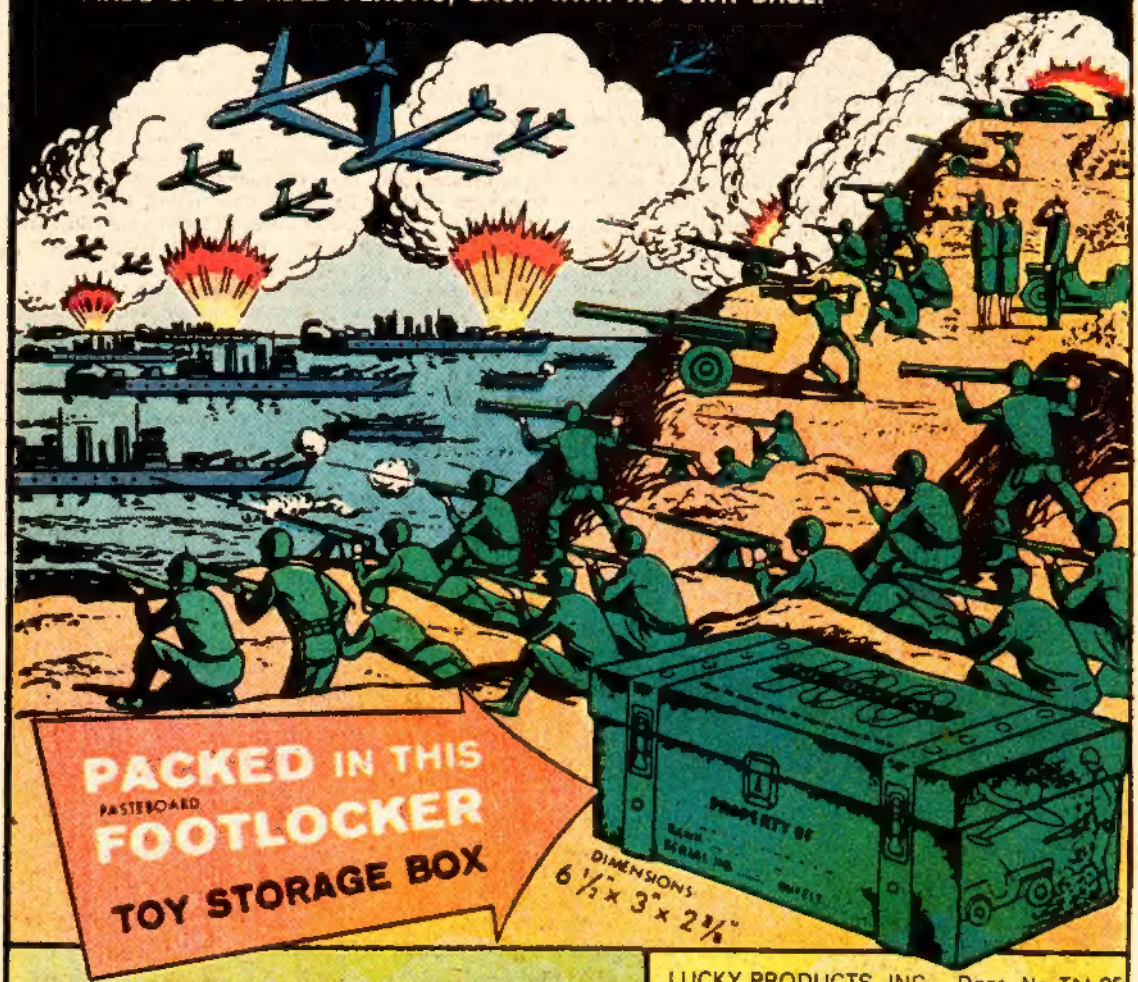

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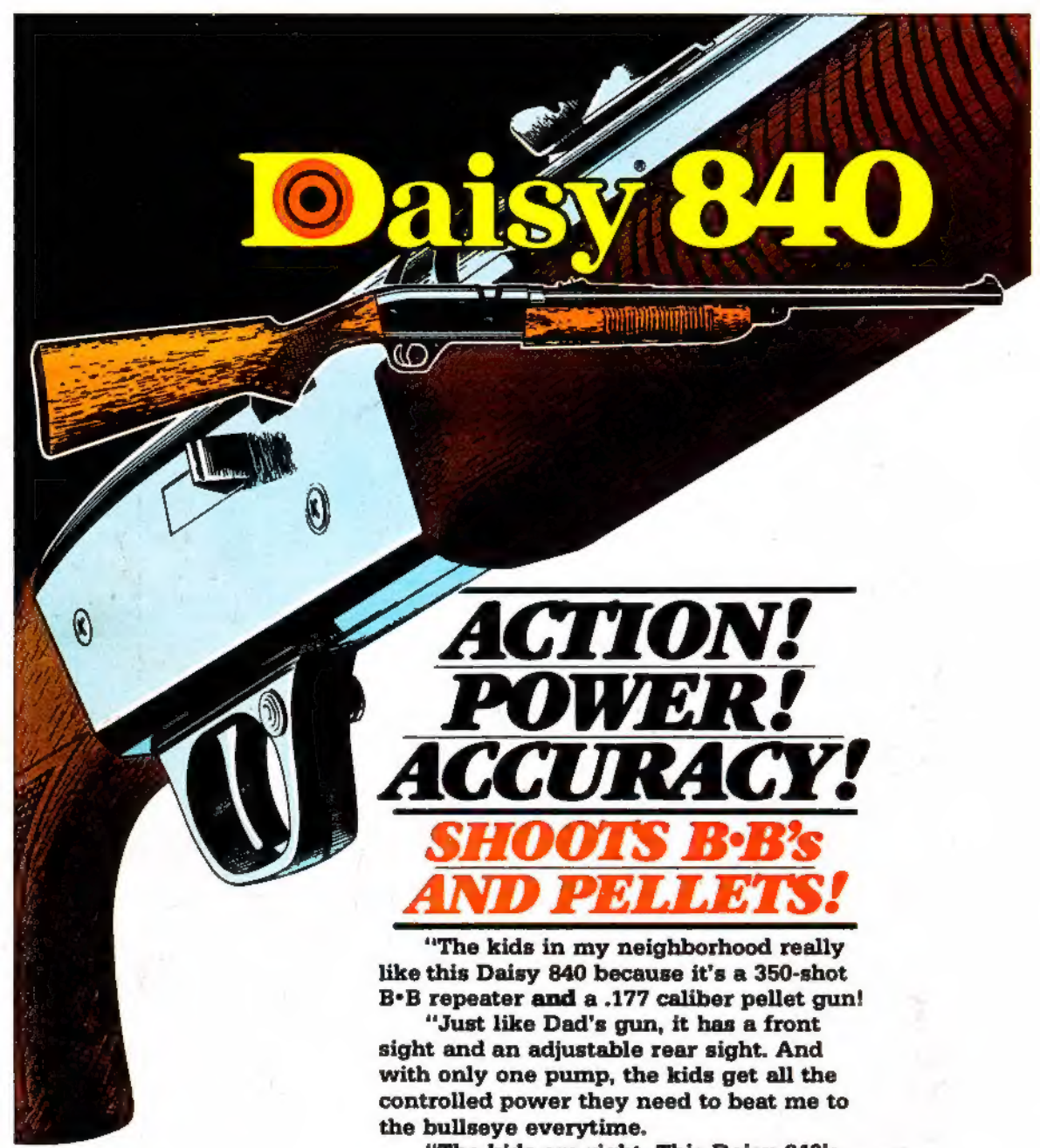

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